

Children's Newspaper

Every Tuesday—Threepence

FOUNDED BY ARTHUR MEE

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SLEDGE-DOGS OF ANTARCTICA

Training the Huskies For Exploration

SOME forty husky sledge-dogs are on their way to Britain in the Colonial Office's Polar supply ship John Biscoe. They were born in the most southerly dog-farm in the world, on Argentine Island, a rocky, desolate knoll locked in the pack ice of Antarctica off the coast of Graham Land.

MY HAT!

British schoolchildren may soon be able to wear hats which play tunes.

A New York manufacturer has devised a hat with three coloured bells fitted to a revolving disc which is driven by a propeller.

When the wind blows, or if the boy or girl wearing the hat is riding a bicycle, the propeller spins round; this turns the disc and the bells then ring merrily.

Mr Jim of Jo'burg

JOHANNESBURG has started a fund to fight infantile paralysis, which last year swept the Reef. Money is pouring in, and for this the authorities must in part thank an unknown benefactor.

Signing himself "Mr Jim," he writes letters to wealthy Johannesburg citizens in this style: "Dear John, I am enclosing a 10s note which you may keep if you like; but I am sending it to you because I want you to double it and send it to the Polio Fund.—Mr Jim."

The Johannesburg committee of the Fund say that copies of this letter accompanying big sums of money have been pouring into the campaign headquarters. But nobody knows who the mysterious "Mr Jim" is.

The money so collected will be devoted to research work into the causes of poliomyelitis and the building of a great hospital for the treatment of sufferers.

HORSE SENSE

WHEN a new footbridge was placed over the River Stour near Chilham, in Kent, low rails were placed across each end to prevent cattle from crossing.

Cows in the meadows continued to make use of a ford a few yards downstream, but two farm horses soon learned a new trick. They now step over the rails and cross the bridge, evidently preferring to keep their feet dry!

Miles Per Herring

A "TAGGED" herring released by officials of the Marine Laboratory of the Scottish Home Department at Aberdeen and picked up later at Peterhead was calculated to have travelled 26 miles in 10 days.

Immensely powerful and weighing up to ten stone, these huskies are to haul the sledges of the coming Anglo-Scandinavian-South Polar Expedition, and in October they will be shipped south again, to Queen Maud Land, which is on the other side of the Antarctic Continent to where they were born.

In the past the sledge-dogs used by Antarctic explorers were bought in Arctic Canada and shipped from the top of the world to the bottom—an expensive procedure, and unsatisfactory because the Eskimo will seldom sell his best dogs.

But three years ago the Colonial Office solved the problem of providing huskies for its six permanent sledging bases in Graham Land by establishing a husky "farm" on Argentine Island. The most southerly kennels in the world, they have proved an unqualified success.

Reluctant Pup

The dog-driver breaks in the husky pup by tracing it with trained dogs. In the Antarctic huskies sledge-haul in fan-formation, the individual traces being gathered in a bunch and attached to a toggle in front of the sledge. At first the pup lags and strays. He may lie down and allow the team to drag him on his stomach. But very soon the pup learns that it is simpler to haul than to stray.

The team is controlled with a whip with a thong perhaps 30 feet long. This thong has been the cause of more laughter, embarrassment, and anger in the Antarctic than any other item of polar equipment; for when a man is learning to drive a team the thong invariably curls itself around his neck, legs, and waist, and the team invariably turns to watch his efforts to get it moving.

"King" Dog

In a well-trained team every dog answers to its name. It will not bear a grudge if chastisement is earned, but resents an unjust beating; there have been instances of a team turning on its driver, or chasing him with their eyes on the seat of his seal-skin trousers!

In any one team the dogs will fight it out until one dog is acknowledged as "king" dog, whereupon its word becomes law. But the "king" is not necessarily leader of a team. The leader is selected for its intelligence and docility; and once the trainer



Snapping the SUN!

Greenwich Observatory in its new Sussex home

SLEDGE-DOGS—Contd

has selected a leader he supports it and never thrashes it in front of its team-mates.

Young puppies are given the shelter of a kennel, but adult animals live out of doors all the year round. During blizzards they curl up with their broad backs (clad in fur eight inches long) to the wind and "sleep it out." When they can they sleep in groups. Captain Scott never tired of telling how Bieglass and Vaida, two half-brothers who hauled in the same trace, spent the nights lying one on top of the other and changing position every few hours so that each had a share of the warmer position!

During prolonged blizzards, when the snow drifts over the sleeping dogs to a depth of several feet, the dog-trainer crawls into the storm periodically to see that his huskies have sufficient tethering chain.

Our men in the Antarctic know that, given a chance, the husky

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Not until 1953 will the transfer of Greenwich Observatory to Hurstmonceux Castle in Sussex be complete, but some of the apparatus has now been installed. In the new rotating aluminium dome outside the castle walls is the 4-inch photoheliograph telescope, here seen being focused by Mr H. W. Newton, chief of the Solar Department.

Fatter Flocks, Finer Fleeces

On five small farms near the city of Palmerston North some of New Zealand's best farm scientists are watching the feeding of small flocks of sheep on special strains of grasses. Every now and again the sheep are weighed and the weight of their fleeces at shearing time is also recorded.

Fatter sheep and finer wool are the aims of the scientists. Only the best grass is good enough for fine flocks that bring so much wealth to New Zealand.

JUMPING TO SCHOOL

Joan's Daily Journey With Jean

JOAN LARGE, eleven-year-old daughter of a Cheshire farmer, is the envy of all her friends at Ravenscroft Hall School, near Middlewich. She lives some eight miles away—at Holly Bush Farm, Haslington, near Crewe—and does the journey, there and back, every day on horseback.

While her classmates wait for buses, Joan is gaily riding across country on her grey pony, Jean, taking fences in her stride. Home again in the evening and homework done, she spends her time training her ponies.

She is one of the finest girl riders in the North and Midlands and the proud possessor of nearly a dozen silver trophies. She has already won 80 prizes this year. She was riding at the tender age of four, and won her first prize when she was six!

How Britain Can Meet Her Problems Music in the Air

The C.N. Economic Correspondent, here continues his explanation of the present dollar crisis, with particular reference to the Chancellor of the Exchequer's recent statement to Parliament.

SPEAKING to a crowded House of Commons Sir Stafford Cripps showed that we have been hit hard by the falling off of our exports to America. As a temporary remedy, he announced the stopping of all imports from dollar countries for three months. Obviously the Government are going to think hard during the next three months to see how they can meet such dangers ahead as cuts in food imports and unemployment.

Our dollar trouble, however, reveals only a part, though a very serious part, of the situation. Happily the remainder of the picture is bright. There are two things to remember in this connection.

Overall Balance

Firstly, as the Chancellor of the Exchequer has said, we have practically reached "overall balance" in overseas trade. This may sound strange when compared with our complaints of the dollar deficit—but is not. What the Chancellor meant was that taking our trade with all Commonwealth and foreign countries, including the USA, we are exporting about as much as we import.

It is a fact that after many years' exertions we are paying our own way in world trade. The trouble is, of course, that we are in need of many essential goods which we now have to buy in the United States and other dollar countries. The summer months ahead will undoubtedly be devoted to finding out what commodities can be bought elsewhere.

Secondly, in Sir Stafford's words, "our productive power has grown to such an extent in the past two years as to give us confidence that we can deal effectively with the present unfavourable turn in our affairs." Here lies the real strength of Britain and her ability to overcome all adversities.

But production in this highly-competitive world does not mean any sort of production. It must be efficient production, that is, an output of goods and services in which costs are getting lower and lower instead of climbing steadily. Our high cost of production undoubtedly represents our most serious problem. We are still not working hard enough or cleverly enough (for we are not using all possible technical improvements) to make our goods cheap to foreign customers.

This state of affairs is not the fault of the people alone. Many of our most essential industries have failed to turn out cheap goods. This is true especially of coal, which helps one way or

another, in the making of every product of this country. What we have to do now, and we have done it successfully in the past, is to produce goods which will attract attention by their customary excellence and low price.

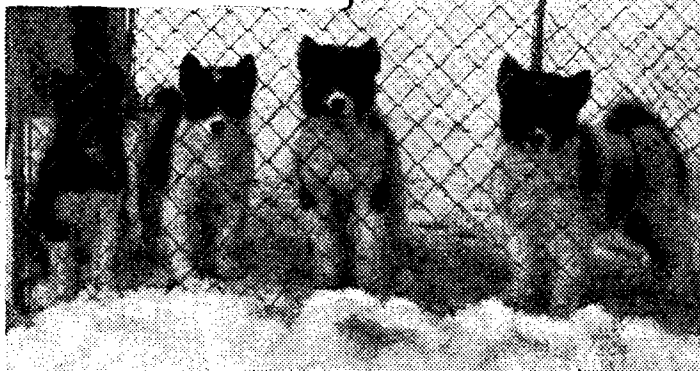
The cure which this country is likely to seek will be found not only in improving our dollar exports but in other important remedies. One of them is likely to be an increase in trade with our European partners. Certainly the way seems to be open now for increasing our commerce with other members of the European Recovery Plan.

A new agreement has been reached between the ERP countries which will enable various nations to trade more with Britain without increasing the drain on our dollar and gold supplies. This disastrous drain would have continued had we agreed to permit nations who hold a lot of sterling to exchange (or convert) a part of it into dollars and gold.

The economic crisis has once again rallied the Dominions to the aid of Britain, and provided that she herself maintains her efforts and self-discipline Britain will soon win her way back to full prosperity.

HUSKIES IN ANTARCTICA

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will devour anything from seal-skin boots to ski-straps; they have lost many such items of equipment. They also know that given the slightest provocation huskies will fight to the death. Hence the chains when the animals are not working.

The husky has wolf blood in his veins. The amount varies; but it may be considerable, and wolf blood is marked in some of the huskies now on their way to London from our Antarctic husky-kennels.

But the husky is normally docile, although two circumstances invariably cause bedlam. The first is the penguin that stands unconcernedly within six inches of a chained husky's jaws. The second is feeding time; the sight of the pemmican box sends the husky into a frenzy, and if it doesn't get its ration quickly may pull out the tethering stake and either make straight for the food-box or tear the throat out of a neighbour.

Although the husky can be ferocious it shows its trainer and driver a deep devotion and has a

Not least of the many delights which London has to offer at this time of year are the Promenade Concerts—the ever-popular Proms, which begin on July 23 and make the Royal Albert Hall the best of all musical-boxes.

This will be the 55th season of what Alan Rawsthorne has called "one of the greatest streams of musical culture in our country"; and all music-lovers will be seeking to refresh themselves at that stream during the next eight weeks—from Sir Edward Elgar's spirited Cockayne overture, which is the curtain-raiser on the first night, to Sir Henry Wood's Fantasia on British Sea Songs, which will end the final programme in time-honoured style on September 17.

Famous Orchestras

There will be an unending flow of classical music played for our delight by a galaxy of soloists and the BBC Symphony, London Philharmonic, and London Symphony orchestras, conducted by Sir Adrian Boult, Basil Cameron, and Sir Malcolm Sargent; and of course, there will be the usual sprinkling of new works.

We shall all be able to hear some of the programmes on the wireless, but everyone who can should go to the Royal Albert Hall to hear at least one of the concerts. Not to do so is to miss a great and invigorating experience.

NEWS FROM EVERYWHERE

HALL OF FAME

Middle Temple Hall, London, restored after war damage, has been re-opened by the Queen. Her Majesty pointed out that one table there was sent from Windsor by direction of Queen Elizabeth, and that another table was made from a hatch of the Golden Hind and given by Sir Francis Drake.

A new "wet basin" costing £7,500,000 is to be constructed in the centre of Glasgow to provide modern facilities for cargo handling.

Trinity College, Glenalmond, won the Ashburton Challenge Shield for shooting at Bisley this year with 512. Charterhouse was second with 511 and Leys School third with 510.

An Irish emigrant to Australia, Thomas Charles Beirne, who arrived there as a poor young man in 1884, died recently and left £1,000,000.

To a New Life

At Australia House the Duke of Gloucester recently said goodbye to a party of 39 children sailing for Australia to join the Fairbridge Farm Schools.

The recent centenary of the first pilgrimage along Hadrian's Wall was attended by distinguished archaeologists from several foreign countries.

At the recent meetings of the Central Committee of the World Council of Churches, held at Chichester, 60 church leaders from 20 countries were present.

Since 1947 the International Refugee Organisation has sent home 500,000 refugees.

CHILD SAFETY YEAR

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents is to concentrate on making 1950 a Child Safety Year. A suggested name for the campaign is Operation Piccaninny. Every year 1000 children are killed on the roads.

Proposals for the extension of London's railway system which would cost about £340,000,000 are contained in a report by the Working Party of the Railway and London Transport Executives (Stationery Office, 3s 6d).

The Badge of Fortitude has been presented to Kay Price, aged ten, of the 1st Battersea Pack of Brownies. Kay has been crippled from birth, cannot walk, and can use only one hand. Yet she has passed all tests for her first-class badge. She goes by tricycle to the Brownie meetings.

Two Gurkha officers have started Wolf Cub packs for Gurkha children in Seremban and Kuala Lumpur, Malaya.

Penalty

Careless picnickers have left so much rubbish about and done so much damage in the 600 acres of the grounds of the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, that it has been decided that in future visitors must keep to the paths and roads. It might even be necessary to close the grounds to the public.

A beautiful corner of old Norwich, the Water Gate at Pull's Ferry, which has stood derelict for many years, is to be restored as local headquarters for Guiders. Pull's Ferry was once at the mouth of a canal dug to bring stone for the cathedral almost to its doors.

Sir Malcolm Sargent has become honorary adviser in music to the Royal Marines, who provide musicians for the Royal Navy.

MORE TEACHERS

The Emergency Training Scheme for teachers, now nearly at an end, has produced 23,000 men teachers and 12,000 women teachers. There will be 124 normal teachers' training colleges by the end of this year compared with 90 before the war.

The motto adopted for the Coal Board is E tenebris lux—light from darkness.

Princess Margaret has entered an aircraft for the King's Cup air race to be flown at Birmingham on July 30. Group Captain Peter Townsend will be the pilot.

Australia's population between January 1949 and June 1950 will have increased by 400,000, according to the Minister for Immigration. This compares with an increase of only 900,000 in the 14 years up to 1947.

Brave Mother

When three children drifted out to sea in a rubber dinghy from Clacton-on-Sea, not long ago, their mother, Mrs Doris Frith, swam half a mile in an attempt to save them. They were all picked up by a motorboat.

The Student Christian Movement will stage an international summer conference at Carbisdale Castle, Ross-shire, from July 24 to 29. The castle was recently presented to the SYHA.

A trout caught in the River Derwent in Cumberland had a pair of horn-rimmed spectacles (minus lenses) fixed round it.

THRIFT GIFT

A Lancashire bank is offering 2s 6d to children to start their savings account on condition they do not take the money out for five years.

A chocolate-coloured egg has been laid by a hen at Ashby-de-la-Zouch.

A Dutch picture which had been for 50 years in the Cheltenham Art Gallery was considered to be worth £15 until recently, when it was cleaned and found to bear the signature of Cornelius Verbeeck and the date 1633. It is now estimated to be worth £800.

A Scout troop has recently been formed at the Rhodesia Fairbridge Memorial College, Induna, Southern Rhodesia.

The first Parliament of Western Germany is to meet at Bonn, and will decide whether the capital of Western Germany shall remain at Bonn or be at Frankfurt.

Several episodes from the life of Robert Bruce were depicted in a recent pageant at Clackmannan. Lord Bruce took part, and wielded the very sword his famous ancestor once used.

The Church of England in Canada has sent a gift of £1118 for the restoration of bombed churches in Britain.

At Woodford, in Epping Forest, a memorial stone has been unveiled to Gipsy Smith, the famous evangelist.

BIC POW-WOW

The first Canadian Indian to win a seat in a provincial parliament is Mr Frank Calder, a Socialist who was recently elected to the British Columbia Legislature.

In a recent C.N. it was stated that Tom Blower holds the record for the fastest Channel swim. This is incorrect, Georges Michel of France holds the record—11 hours 5 minutes.

PARK FOR THE NATION

BUSCOT PARK estate, near Faringdon (Berkshire), has been anonymously presented to the National Trust and the principal rooms will be open to the public on Wednesday and Thursday afternoons. The house was built in 1780 and the walls of the salon are covered by the famous "Briar Rose" series of paintings by Burne-Jones.

Lightning in the Lab.

ARTIFICIAL flashes of lightning up to five million volts in power can be produced in the American General Electric Company's new High-Voltage Engineering Laboratory, which has just been opened at Pittsfield, Massachusetts. This laboratory, which is the largest centre ever built to produce artificial lightning, houses two powerful impulse generators with a peak voltage of 7,500,000 volts that are used to test various types of apparatus by providing the conditions of an electrical storm.

On the opening day some interesting experiments were shown to the public in the large demonstration hall. A landscape had been set up with a doll's house standing in the middle of it representing a lonely country house. The house was fitted with

a lightning conductor and then a man-made lightning current of five million volts was directed at it from one of the giant impulse generators. After the enormous flash had disappeared the house was seen to be still standing unharmed.

In the High-Voltage Laboratory the exact conditions of thunderstorm can be reproduced by varying the temperature and the humidity. Under these conditions porcelain insulators such as are used on electrical transformers are subjected to severe tests to find out at what point they will break down. These tests sometimes produce spectacular effects, with blinding arrows of flame shooting fifty feet across the laboratory and burying the insulations under test in a wave of fire.

Native Dance

A South American monkey in the East London Zoo, South Africa, gives an excellent version of the rumba. He taught himself to dance, and expects applause in the form of a banana or peanuts at the end of each performance.

DON'T PET THE SEALS

At Hunstanton, Norfolk, visitors have been asked not to make a fuss of a baby seal if they should find one on the beach. For the little seals love being made a fuss of and, once they have been petted, they refuse to return where they belong. This is the seal colony on Gore Middle Bank in the Wash.

Here baby seals who have strayed from mother's side are taken in boats, but often the young truants find their way back to the beach again. It is thought that the tide brings the little seals near the shore and when they hear human voices they come onto the beach.

STAMP NEWS

BELGIUM issued her first stamp a hundred years ago, and has celebrated the event with an international stamp exhibition at Brussels and a special issue.

A NEW set of Turkish stamps depicts wrestlers in action. It has been issued to commemorate the 5th Free Style Wrestling Championship of Europe.

FRANCE has issued a new set to commemorate the International Telecommunications Congress. Honoured on the stamps are Claude Chappe, François Arago, André-Marie Ampère, Emile Baudot, and General Ferrié, who did much to further the cause of electrical science.

A FRENCH stamp is issued to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the death of the poet, Jean Racine. Another great writer, Alexander Pushkin, born 150 years ago, is honoured by special stamps from Hungary and Czechoslovakia.

Chummy Covey

Children attending the village school at Sotterley (Suffolk) had a pleasant surprise recently. Some partridges hatched out under the tool shed, and in a couple of days had become so tame that they followed the scholars everywhere. Quite happy about it all, the parent birds sat comfortably on the lawn watching their youngsters with the children.

On the Move

THE recently-published findings of the Royal Commission on Population have been incorporated in a number of maps prepared by the Ministry of Town and Country Planning. On a scale of ten miles to an inch, these maps show by the use of colours where population has increased or decreased in recent years.

In some country districts the population has been gradually going down, particularly around South Molton and Hatherleigh in North Devon, and in mid-Wales. In great centres such as London, Birmingham, and Manchester, there has also been a lessening of population density, compensated for by increases in the suburbs. Halifax, Rochdale, Bradford, and Oldham have decreased, people having moved to more fertile plains, towards Doncaster and Mansfield, Ormskirk, and Southport.

The seaside is becoming increasingly popular for residence; nearly all the areas show increases, especially on the South Coast.

A-BUZZIN' IN THE BEDROOM

BEES in a bedroom kept some Nottingham children up extra late the other night; they came down the chimney and settled round the fireplace in the children's bedroom. The police were called and smoked the bees back up the chimney by lighting a paper fire in the grate. Then the bees went down another chimney, and the next day an expert came and collected them.

TEST MATCH AT MANCHESTER

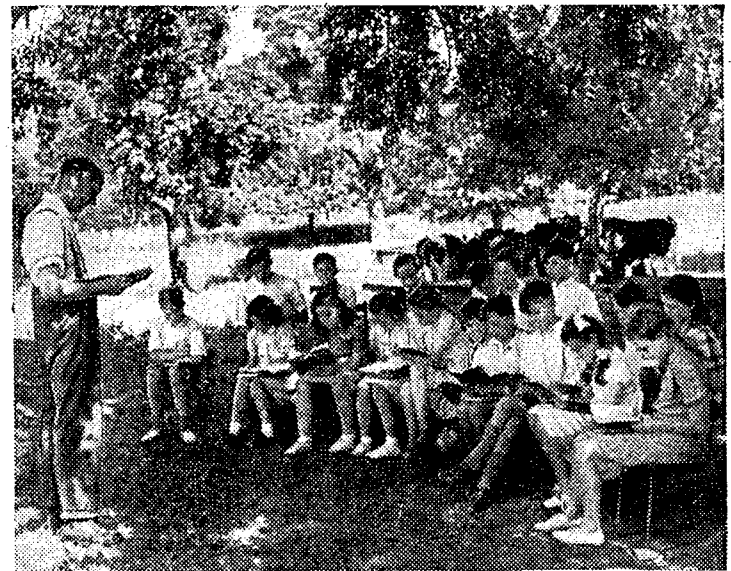
OLD TRAFFORD, Manchester, will this week-end be the scene of the third Test Match between England and New Zealand, and all cricket lovers are hoping that this will not end in a draw.

They are hoping, too, for fine weather, for Manchester is notorious for its Test weather. The first time New Zealand appeared at Old Trafford for a Test Match, in 1931, no play was possible until mid-afternoon on the third and last day. But the only other time the New Zealanders have appeared in a Test match at Manchester, in 1937, the weather was perfect. England won by 130 runs, and Len Hutton scored 100 in the first innings.

In that match the New Zealand team included Hadlee, Wallace, Donnelly, and Cowie, all members of the present touring party, Jack Cowie dismissing 10 English batsmen for 140 runs.

Canada's New Coin

A NEW coin has been put into circulation in Canada; it is a silver dollar, struck to commemorate Newfoundland's entry as Canada's tenth province. Canada has not had a commemorative coin for ten years, the last occasion being in 1939 to mark the visit of the King and Queen.



Cool School

The village school at Deerhurst, Gloucestershire, abandons the classroom in favour of a shady spot under the trees, with cattle grazing in the background.

BATTLE OF THE WHEELS

IN order to try out new designs for wheels for motor vehicles, Leyland Motors research department have installed a machine in which the new wheel, fitted with a tyre, is run against a standard wheel with tyre, until one of them wears out.

This testing machine is inside a strong cage, so that if a wheel should fly into fragments no one will be injured.

Mounted in line, and touching, the two wheels revolve together at what is the equivalent of 30 m.p.h. on the road. The load which each wheel would be carrying on the road is provided by a leverage system.

As the wheels revolve, they are cooled by an air blast from an electrically-driven blower.

Making Hay of the Haycocks

Four men fishing in the River Waveney at Harleston (Norfolk) the other day were able to see the curious effect of a minor whirlwind known in East Anglia as a "hay-rodder."

Hearing a sudden rustling of the wind, they saw a haycock about 50 yards away being lifted about 200 feet into the air, the hay eventually being scattered into the river and on an adjoining marsh. A few seconds later two other haycocks in the same field disappeared in a similar manner.

VACUUM-CLEANING A RIVER

A NEW ship which left the Clyde recently for her trials is equipped with large vacuum-like cleaners which will "sweep up" river floors.

She is the Ibadan and is claimed to be the largest vessel of her kind ever built. Her job will be to clean up sludge which forms a barrier to cargo-carrying vessels on various rivers in the Crown Colonies.

The electrically-operated suction nozzles will draw up vast quantities of sludge, and as it passes into the specially-designed holds the more solid material will be automatically separated and

World Gathering of Gymnasts

IN 1939 a great international festival of gymnastics was held in Stockholm to mark the 100th anniversary of the death of Pehr Henrik Ling, who spent his life trying to make the peoples of the world conscious of the untold physical benefits of regular exercises. That first Lingiad, as it was called, was such a success that it was decided to hold a similar event every ten years, and the second is to be held from July 27 to August 10.

Over 50 nations will be represented at this great gathering of nearly 15,000 gymnasts.

Demonstrations of the various phases of the Ling cult of gymnastics and physical exercises will be given at the wonderful Olympic Stadium at Stockholm, and at other centres in the Swedish capital, and a special stamp has been struck to commemorate the occasion.

Britain will be represented by over 600 boys and girls, and men and women, who will also give exhibitions of folk dancing and team games.

Hitch-Hike to Egypt

PETER MADDOCK, a student of economics at Hull University, set out recently from his home at Leek, Staffordshire, to hitch-hike 2000 miles to Alexandria.

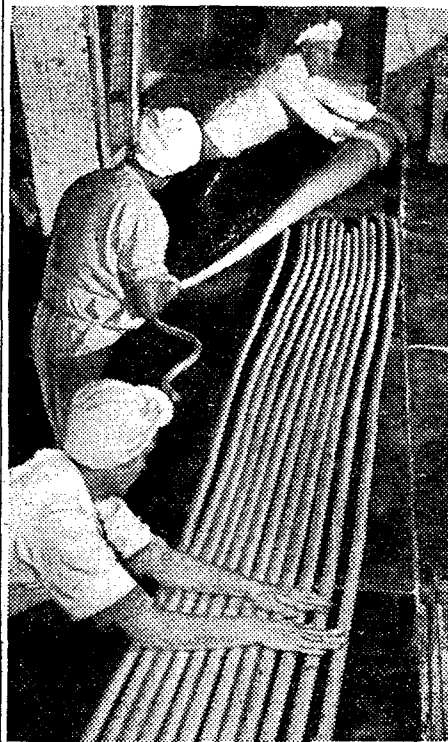
He will stay at youth hostels and hopes to complete the trip in his three-months' summer vacation. At Alexandria he will stay with friends whom he met when with the Royal Signals in Cyprus.



Cockney Parade

Mickey, one of the entries in the Costers' and Street Traders' Pony Show in London, takes a close interest in a young visitor.

Putting the Name in the Rock



THE method by which letters are put inside seaside rock has long been a mystery to many of us. These pictures give some idea of how it is done.

The two men in the top picture are giving the delicious mixture its first shape at a London sweet factory. Each of the small dark objects sticking out of the end of the rock is a long red letter which becomes a part of the rock.

In the second picture the mixture, with the name now inside it, is being pulled out into the required shape; the interior letters being reduced in size, like the rest of it.

New Food Plants on the Way?

A VARIETY of tomato, entirely without seeds, has been developed by P. W. Zimmerman, of the Boyce Thompson Institute for Plant Research, in New York. The seedless tomato was created by treatment of the flowers of the tomato plant by a newly-discovered chemical called auxin.

Auxin is present in all plants, and seems to control the rate of growth. It is auxin which makes a seedling turn toward the light by stimulating the growth on the opposite side at the expense of the side which is being illuminated, thus causing the seedling or plant to bend. It occupies the same place in the plant world as the hormones from the glands do in the animal kingdom.

Already P. W. Zimmerman and his co-workers have been able to produce monster varieties of plants by feeding them with auxin, and there has been a hint that we have here a means to feed the mounting millions of the world's population, for auxin can be manufactured in the laboratory.

SCIENCE TO PROBE EGYPT'S SECRETS

PRESENT-DAY scientific knowledge is to be used to try to discover the precise age of ancient Egyptian relics, for the dates at present assigned to early Egyptian history are only estimates. An attempt is to be made to find the age of a wooden plank from an Egyptian tomb by determining the degree of its radio-activity.

The plank was made of a heavy wood of an unknown kind and it is in an excellent state of preservation. Yet it is very old and the tomb from which it has been taken, that of a nobleman in the necropolis of Sakkara, near Memphis, is thought to be over 5000 years old.

If the age of such objects can be found, the dates of ancient Egyptian dynasties will be known.

C N Zoo Correspondent Tells of Two Whipsnade Tricksters . . .

SNAP THE SEA-LION AND DIXIE THE ELEPHANT

MANY laughs are in store for visitors to Whipsnade Zoo-park this summer, not the least of them being provided by Snap, the four-hundredweight sea-lion. Snap came from Dudley Zoo a year ago and, with Alice, a smaller sea-lion sent up from Regent's Park, has been quartered on Chimpanzee Island—so-called because until recently several young chimpanzees lived there.

Over the Barrier

Unlike Alice, however, Snap does not stay on his island home. Because of his great size he finds it easy to break out over the breast-high barrier that lines the moat around the island. And he does. But, being a keen practical-joker, he carefully chooses his time. Not until he sees large crowds thronging the park does he play his little jest. Then, rearing up suddenly out of the water, he stands bolt upright at the barrier, topples himself forward across the top, and lands happily on the footpath among the public!

Snap's "surprise turn" invariably causes a minor riot. Grown-ups laugh and children, shrieking delightedly, surge eagerly all

ANOTHER amusing turn is that provided by the riding elephant, Dixie, at the close of the day's work. For when her keeper, Mr. George Braham, climbs down off her head, Dixie throws her trunk affectionately around him, lifts him off the ground, and carries him all the way back to the elephant house!

Incidentally, the Zoo authorities are feeling a little anxious about Dixie's future. Dixie came from Bostock's Circus in 1932 with Mr. Braham, who had been her trainer in the circus. The pair were inseparable then and have remained so ever since. And the trouble is this: Keeper Braham, now over 60, will be retiring from the Society's service in a year or two. But Dixie, whose age is 46, has perhaps 20 years' more work before her.

A One-Man Animal

To the query: "What will you do with Dixie when Mr. Braham goes?" a Zoo official admitted frankly to me that he "just did not know." He added, "Dixie is a 'one-man animal,' if ever there was one. She loves Keeper Braham so much that she refuses to work with anyone else. At the moment, therefore, it looks as if we shall have to 'retire' her also."

Should this happen, Whipsnade will lose one of its most celebrated animal "stars." For carrying her keeper is by no means her only accomplishment. She can—and does—play the mouth-organ very creditably; and her efforts to render the National Anthem on this instrument are most amusing.

Among this famous elephant's other tricks are saluting and "shaking hands." At Mr. Braham's command she will raise her trunk and then trumpet so heartily that the very ground seems to tremble. And she will lift her right forefoot and "shake" with the tiniest visitor present, simultaneously giving a hearty trumpet which, Mr. Braham assures me, means "Put it right there!" CRAVEN HILL



Snap and his audience

round the huge but friendly sea-lion, patting his sleek flanks. As a rule, the excitement is short-lived. For Snap, who never likes being away from home for long, soon tires of his admirers' caresses, and hurries back into his enclosure.

PILGRIMS AS OF OLD

AN interesting ceremony took place the other day when leading members of the shoe and leather trades went on the annual pilgrimage of the Guild of Cordwainers to Brecon, South Wales. When they reached their destination each member took the oath proposed by the Master Cordwainer "that they should not profit by another's loss, but should gain at the same time their own living and their neighbours' good will."

This pilgrimage of the Cordwainers is a survival from medieval times, when it was the custom for members of the trade guilds to go on pilgrimages to holy places in England and on the Continent. We learn from Chaucer that the Wife of Bath, who represented the Clothmakers'

Guild, was a much-travelled woman and had been three times to Jerusalem, besides France and Spain.

Although the pilgrimages were intended for a religious purpose they were also regarded as something of a holiday. The Canterbury Pilgrims were a merry company, loving a jest above all things, and they delighted in a story on the way; nevertheless we may be sure that when they finally arrived at the Shrine of St. Thomas, the "holy blissful martyr," they worshipped with no less fervour.

It was the medieval belief also that every member of the guild shared in the spiritual benefits of the pilgrimage on which one of their number set out, and so every one contributed to the cost.

C N ASTRONOMER DESCRIBES THE MAP OF MARS . . .

Planet That Looks Like the Earth

THE planet Mars has now reappeared in the early morning sky after his long absence far beyond the Sun. He may now be seen low in the east, the best time to seek him being between 3.30 and 4.30 a.m. when dawn will intervene, the Sun rising about 5 o'clock.

Betelgeuze, together with the Belt of Orion, will therefore be a guide to identifying Mars, as shown by the star-map.

Mars does not at present appear as bright as Betelgeuze, the great distance of the planet much diminishing the brilliance he will attain during the coming winter, when after Venus, Mars will be the brightest object in the evening sky. He will be at his nearest point to the Earth in March next year, and at his greatest brilliance.

At present Mars is about 210 million miles away, but next March he will be about 160 million miles nearer, and will appear telescopically very much larger, and with an amount of detail on his surface of very great interest to astronomers.

These details have a singular resemblance to the geographical features of our Earth, and are presented by no other planet.

They are what we should expect to see were we able to observe our world from, say, the surface of Venus.

For instance, the Estuary of the Amazon is remarkably reproduced in what is known as the Sabacus Sinus on Mars, a very similar forked double estuary. Into this flow, as it were, rivers and belts of vegetation which appear as greenish-grey streaks, apparently a hundred miles or so wide but over a thousand miles long, into a continental area of Mars known as Eden. One of these greenish-grey streaks is called Orontes, and corresponds with the main stream of the Amazon on Earth; while a secondary one called Gehon corresponds with the Tocantins.

These streaks at one time received the unfortunate misnomer of *canali*, which gave the erroneous impression that they were canals. Subsequent investigation showed them to be most probably broad strips of vegetation, possibly cultivated, which extend for thousands of miles across

large desert areas, usually to what are called Oases.

They are apparently irrigated areas watered either by rivers, which would not be wide enough to be seen telescopically, or by some artificial means of conducting the water, which is much more plentiful in the higher-temperate and sub-polar regions of Mars.

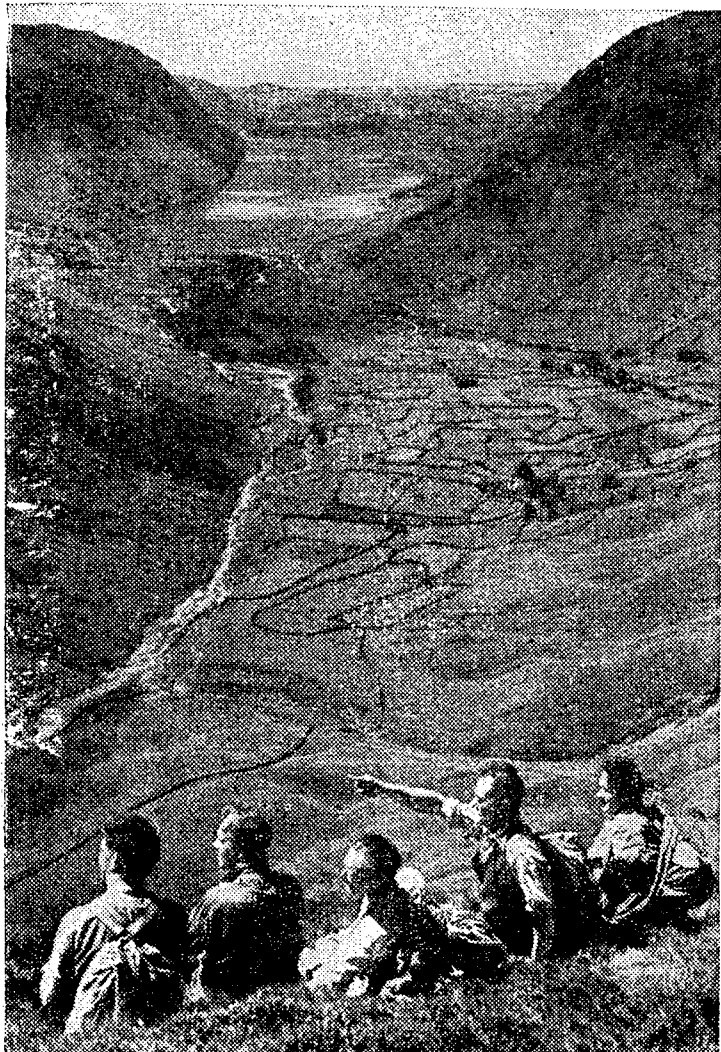
It is the wide tropical belt of the planet which is largely desert, as if covered with several Saharas. These give Mars the singular reddish-yellow hue observed when he is near the Earth, and it is across these desert areas that the narrow irrigated strips, the so-called "canals," are most in evidence, often leading from one water area to another.

Elsewhere on Mars are obvious bays, islands, promontories, and numerous estuaries which resemble terrestrial geographical features, and have received names appropriate to them.

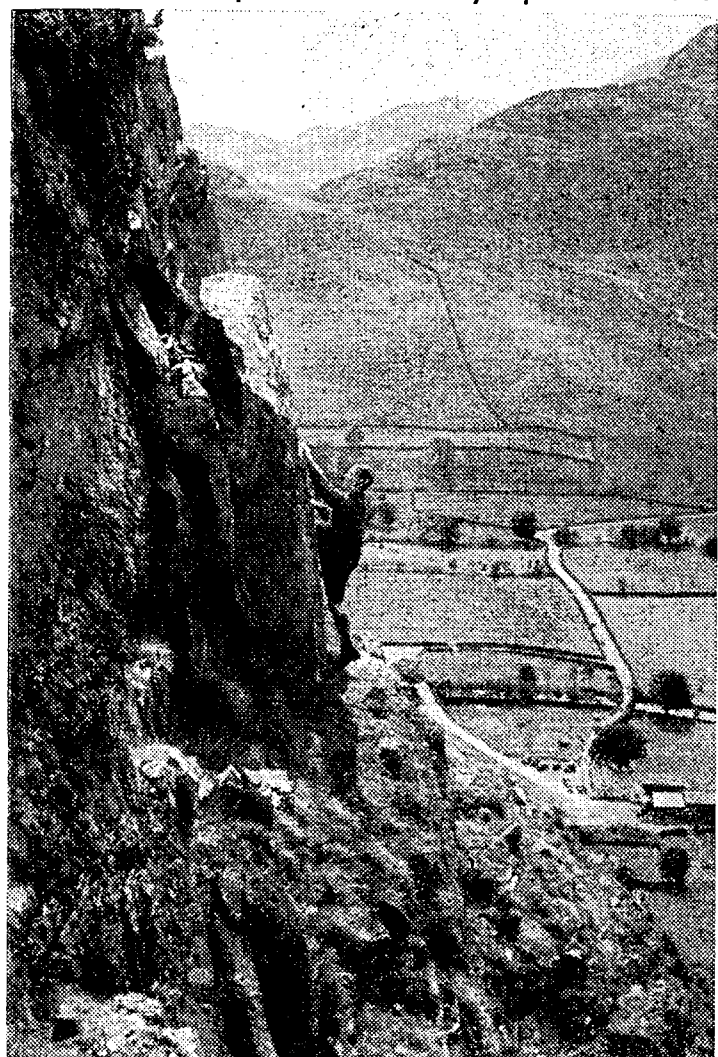
These features are permanent, and though seasonal changes will at times change some outlines—as, in particular, the bright Polar caps of snow or ice—or occasionally obliterate them with cloud, yet these details always reappear. G F M.



Youth Scales the Heights—Mountaineering in Britain



Lakeland "Classroom"—Climbers taking the Ministry of Education course pause on their way up Great Gable



A lone climber on Langdale Pikes, Westmorland

THE thrills of mountaineering can be enjoyed in our own country by any active young person, and there are many expert climbers who have never left our shores.

The climbers on the left are some of those who took part in the recent first course on mountaineering to be run by the Ministry of Education. They are resting on their way up the winding mountain track to the Great Gable, 2949 feet, in Cumberland. Below them lies Wasdale Valley and West Water. One member of the party is pointing towards other peaks in this region. Among them, to the left of the point reached in our picture, is the highest mountain in England, Scafell Pike, 3210 feet, which was also climbed by these students of mountaineering.

THE purpose of the course was to give the youth leaders, schoolmasters, and others experience of rock climbing, so that they in their turn would have the knowledge necessary for leading expeditions of would-be mountaineers.

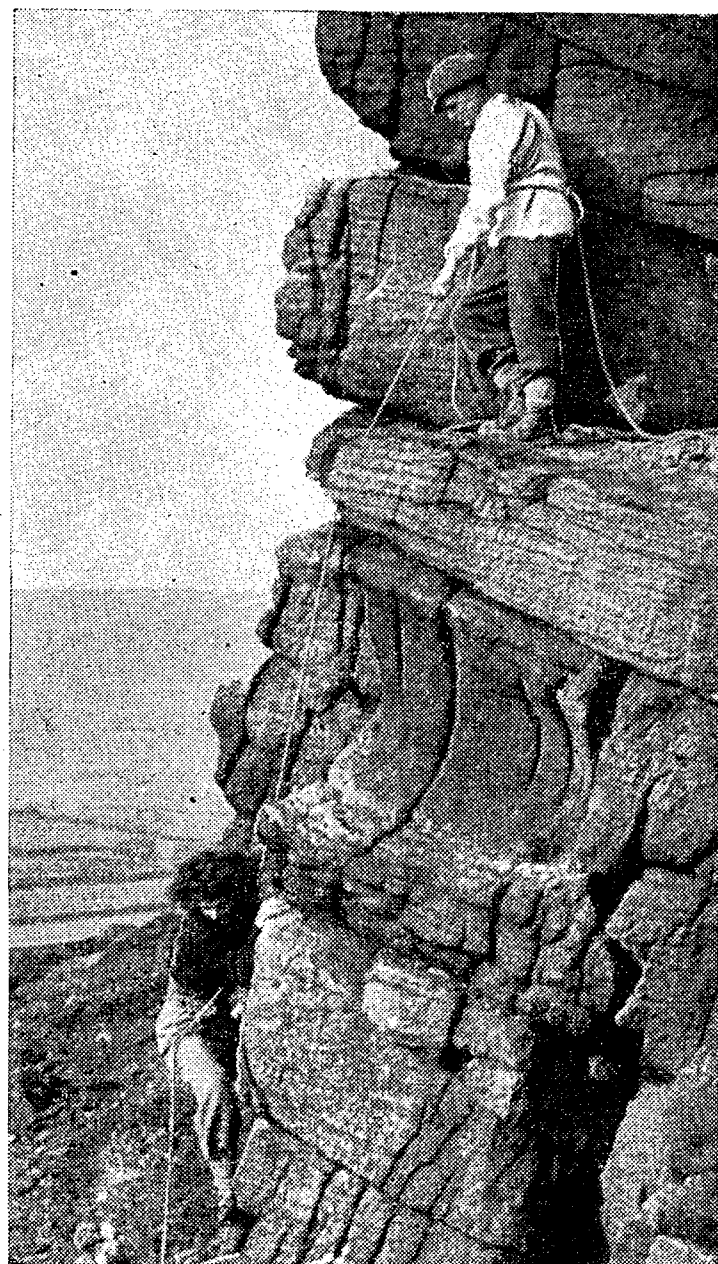
The course lasted five days, and the students took with them the climber's indispensable equipment: edged-nail boots, gym shoes for climbing in dry weather, light yet warm clothing, woollen gloves and helmets, rucksacks, maps, and compasses.

THE other pictures show some young folk savouring the adventures and joys of winning the heights. The girl climber on the right is negotiating a tricky edge on Windgather Rocks, near Macclesfield, Cheshire.

The lads in the bottom right picture are resting on a giddy perch jutting from the north ridge of Tryfan in North Wales.

The young climber in the bottom left picture is scrambling up Middle Fell, Langdale Pikes, not far from Scafell.

MOUNTAINS are a challenge to adventurous spirits, but experience is necessary before tackling steep ascents.



On a sheer rock-face of Windgather, Cheshire, a girl needs "a head for heights"



A "grandstand" among the heights of Snowdonia

July 23, 1949

The Children's



Grace at the Wicket

To celebrate the bicentenary of the Clergy Orphan Corporation two of its schools—St Margaret's, Bushey, and St Edmund's, Canterbury—held at Bushey a Victorian tea-party and cricket match, complete with crinolines, poke bonnets, and top hats. Here Susan Kitchingman hits out for St Margaret's.

It's an American Custom

Here is another letter from the C.N. Correspondent who is visiting the United States.

DRIVING recently down an American highway I noticed a wayside stall marked "Strawberries." When we returned later in the day the stall was marked "Fireworks." I asked my friend about this sudden change. "It's an American custom," he quietly replied.

We were in the season when the strawberry crop conflicted with the gaiety of Independence Day celebrations, and this farmer-salesman was not to be caught out by having a fireworkless stall even though it meant fewer strawberries for sale.

In the autumn of this year all the shops, the advertisements, and the slogans will tell the American that Thanksgiving Day is drawing near, and that it is time to buy a present for his old home and his mother and father. He will be shouted at by radio, lured by pretty window-dressing, and informed by circulars that there is much to sell and buy. Most of the old American customs have become commercialised. There is Mother's Day. Think of what you can buy for her. Father's Day is not so popular—but there is always another tie to give him.

But there are other more homely and unchangeable customs in this land where nearly every day is seized on by a

promoter anxious to sell an idea or an extra glass of orange juice. There is turkey with cranberry sauce on every occasion which calls for a celebration. What goes with it is a thick, deep slice of apple pie. Britain would call it "tart"; but America loves the word "pie." There is "corn on the cob" with the large beads of corn fastened round the husk like a coronet of pearls. You eat it by holding the cob in your fingers and munching the sweet corn.

Another American food custom is fried chicken—fried deep in batter—and there may go with it French fried potatoes, or what in Britain would be called "chips." Alongside the main plate is a side plate loaded with a sweet salad—lettuce mixed perhaps with pineapple or peach. And you eat the lot with a fork only—another American custom which amazes the visiting Briton.

It is not true that American men wear only a belt on their trousers (pants) and discard braces. They often wear both but call the braces suspenders.

It is also an American custom to make tea by dangling a little bag of tea in a cup of hot water. But gradually that idea is giving way to the solid, homely pot of the British housewife. But it will still take years of education to persuade American tea-makers to use boiling water and to warm the pot beforehand.

TREASURE FROM THE TRENT

DREDGED from the Trent nearly 21 years ago, and for several years used as a fire-screen, a Bronze Age shield has just been shown to the public for the first time at Sheffield City Museum.

The shield was found in September 1928 by Mr J. Varley during dredging operations at Carlton-on-Trent, where deposits of smooth quartz pebbles are taken from the river for road-making.

Failing to recognise the historical value of his discovery, Mr Varley used the shield as a fire-screen in his home. Several years later it was taken for further examination to the home of

a friend in Sheffield, but the shield was forgotten when its new home was blitzed during a raid. However, it was traced some time later and taken to Weston Park Museum, where the director, Mr J. W. Baggaley, identified it as belonging to the Bronze Age and dating to approximately 500 B.C.

The shield is 17 inches in diameter, and carries a design consisting of 72 concentric rings which radiate from a central boss. It has obviously been moulded by beating the metal with a hammer, and the craftsmanship is of a high standard.

Gondoliers Go Slow

THE gondoliers of Venice, known all over the world, recently made a demonstration against the motor-boats which are being more and more used on the canals, the "streets" of Venice.

The gondoliers hauled their picturesque boats ashore and placed them in front of the Ducal Palace. On the gondolas they mounted placards saying: "Down with the motor-boats; it is the waves from the motor-boats which are ruining the artistic monuments of Venice."

Lovers of this unique and lovely city will be glad to hear that the municipal authorities have promised to help the gondoliers, for Venice would not be Venice without the gondolas that take the place of taxis in other cities.

There is substance, too, in the gondoliers' claim that the motor-boats damage the foundations of buildings. About 15 years ago it was reported that the piles on which Venice was built were suffering from the heavy wash set up by hundreds of motor-boats.

Venice was founded by refugees who fled from the Huns when Rome was no longer mistress of the world. They built their homes on piles driven into the mudbanks of the lagoon, and on piles Venice grew to be the "Queen of the Adriatic."

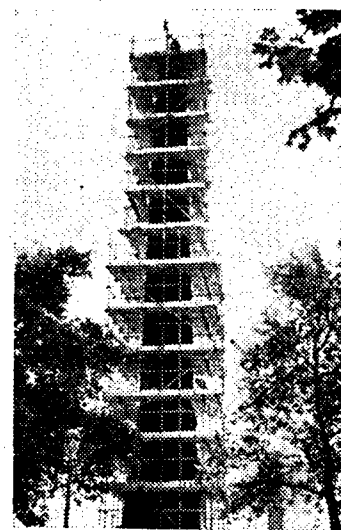
DOLLARS FROM DICKENS

MONEY given by Charles Dickens for the benefit of blind people in America has only just come to the end of its good work.

In 1868 Dickens was asked by an American institution for the blind to pay for one of his novels to be printed in special type for the blind to read. He chose *The Old Curiosity Shop* and gave 1700 dollars for it to be printed.

Many copies of the book were printed for the blind and others were sold to persons interested in this edition of Dickens's book. For 80 years the original plates from which the books were printed lay in the storeroom of the Howe Press, which belongs to the Perkins Institution for the Blind. Recently they were sold as scrap for 31.65 dollars, the money going to the Institution.

Needle in Splints



The famous Cleopatra's Needle on London's Victoria Embankment is being cleaned for the 1951 Festival of Britain. No doubt it will emerge as bright as a new pin.

The Editor's Table

DOWN TO THE SEA

WHATEVER the weather be during the holiday season there is always a pilgrimage to the seashore. For the sea is in our blood, and to all the moods of the sea the people of these islands respond.

In storm and tempest the awe of the sea runs across all Britain, even into the hearts of those who know least about it. News of those at sea always strikes a chord of immediate universal sympathy. The big ports and the little ports, the big ships and little ships, are all close to our hearts, for we are a people of the sea.

THE fascination of the seashore comes freshly to every generation and never grows stale. Yet there are still boys and girls in our great towns who have never seen the sea, have never paddled in the gentle surf, have never gazed in wonder at the horizon across the waves. They have been denied the birthright of an island people.

To climb the cliffs at the sea edge, to hear the cry of sea-gulls, to feel the lash of the wind on the shore—these are all part of the sea fever in our blood, the sea fever of which our Poet Laureate has sung so memorably:

*I must go down to the seas again,
for the call of the running tide
Is a wild call and a clear call that
may not be denied.
And all I ask is a windy day with
the white clouds flying
And the flung spray and the blown
spume, and the sea-gulls crying.*

Key to World Friendship

CHRISTIAN friendship will be the keynote of the International Conference of the World Youth Friendship League, which is being held from July 23 to July 30 at the Polytechnic Touring Company's Fyvie Hall in London.

The League members hold that in the Christian rule of life lies the key to world citizenship, and they believe that "the barriers of race, colour, and nationality can be broken down only in the spirit of Christ."

It is hoped that 20 young representatives will come to the Conference from Germany, where the League's branch is about 4500 strong. Among the speakers during the week will be the Founder of the League, Pastor Arthur H. Bird.

This international youth movement has grown steadily since it was launched in 1945, and its enthusiastic young members pray that their 1949 Conference will foster this growth and hearten them in their crusade.

JUST AN IDEA

As Christopher Marlowe wrote, *Virtue is the fount whence honour springs.*

Reading, the Popular Hobby

PEOPLE, and particularly young people, seem to be reading more than they ever did before, in spite of modern counter-attractions. Figures published recently by the Kent County Library, which serves more than 730,000 people, show that there has been an increase of over half a million in the number of books issued during the past 12 months.

The most marked increase was in junior fiction, where the number of books issued was 691,972, an increase of 120,038. The number of books of senior fiction was 2,913,085, an increase of 329,153.

There was also an increase in the number of books taken out by each borrower, from 22.4 books to 27.3. There was a slight increase in the non-fiction books borrowed, the most popular subject being biography, and then travel.

These figures show that we are steadily becoming a better educated people.

HOW'S THAT!

Of all games or sports Cricket appears to be the most trying to the temper, for a player cannot lose his wicket without being put out. *Thomas Hood*

For Independence Re

How the independence of the Western nations has become interdependence was emphasised recently by the American Ambassador, Mr Lewis Douglas.

"Now each national unit of the Western world is a part of an interdependent community of nations," he said. "Though broad oceans may separate them, the identity of fundamental moral values, of economic and political interests, makes them all dependent on each other, and among the countries so joined

Under the 'Ed

PETER PUCK
WANTS TO KNOW

If moisture is
water proof



PARTS of the English coast are being worn away. Wonder who is wearing them.

MOST dentists have a large volume of work to carry out. Why don't they put it on a bookshelf?

A BOY should stand up for his friends. Especially in a crowded bus.

A TRAM "special" has been touring London with fifty tram fans. One way of keeping cool.

HORSE-RIDING gives you an upright carriage. But you can't ride in that.

THINGS SAID

IF this country is to survive along the lines emphasised by the Chancellor, it must invest in the best possible education for its children.

David Hardman, M P

UNFORTUNATELY, hardly anything changes more slowly than men's minds.

Herbert Morrison, M P

THE time may soon come when we shall have to open the gates and there will be a "Madam Justice."

Sir Raymond Evershed, Master of the Rolls, speaking of women judges

Too many people are adopting the slogan: It is more blessed to get than to give.

Lord Iman

PULSE OF FATE

GIVE a man a horse he can ride, Give a man a boat he can sail, and his rank and wealth, his strength and health, For sea nor shore shall fail.

Give a man a pipe he can smoke, Give a man a book he can read, And his home is bright with a calm delight, Though the rooms be poor indeed.

Give a man a girl he can love, As I, O my Love, love thee, And his hand is great with the pulse of Fate, At home, on land, on sea.

James Thomson

ad Interdependence

together in a community of nations are the United Kingdom, the members of the British Commonwealth, and the United States."

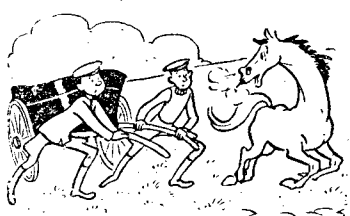
Concerning our present economic difficulties he added this wise comment: "It is a period which calls for calm eyes, cool heads, tolerant minds, and the conviction that the bright future rests not on the separatism that once brought us so close to ruin, but on a solid association of brotherhood in peace, and comradeship in the effort to preserve it."

itor's Table

ALL members of an island race should be at home in water. They soon slip into it.

PLANNING is new and we have to carry the public with us, says a Government official. Why not let them walk?

NEXT to the nose the chin plays a big role in the assessment of character. But it never is next to the nose.



WILD ponies are difficult to catch. You can't catch them with a pony trap.

Forthright and Timely

THE Prime Minister recently denounced the hypocrisy of the Communists. He said:

"I am certain that if the men and women who built up our movement [the Labour movement] were to be told the true facts about Russia today, they would say, 'This is not a Socialist society. There is no freedom. It is a classic example of a police state, just as Russia under the Tsars was a police state. There are class divisions, quite glaring divisions. There is no freedom of speech, of conscience, or of the person...'"

He continued: "I get protests because we keep out from places where secret work is carried on, people who cannot be trusted. This from Communists who know that their fellows in Communist countries carry on a constant purge and ruthlessly remove from office anyone who shows the slightest sign of deviating from what their rulers consider to be orthodoxy. It is sickening hypocrisy."

FESTIVAL FAIR!

PLEASURE gardens in Battersea Park are to be organised as part of the Festival of Britain in 1951.

The area of the Exhibition ground on the South Bank of the Thames, 30 acres, is considered too small to provide all the amusements essential to such a great Festival. So Battersea Park, which is adjacent to the river, will be laid out as an attractive pleasure gardens. There will be a traditional fairground, open-air cafés, and restaurants, concerts, and so on, and care will be taken to avoid excessive noise, so that the Gardens may be enjoyed by people of all tastes.

The organisers have a grand opportunity here to use their imagination, for a fairground does not have to be a rowdy, raucous place, as those set up in our towns and villages too often are.

No Colour Bar For Britain

It certainly does not help to foster friendship and loyalty among the people of the Colonies if their citizens who come to our country are coldly received.

There are about 20,000 coloured people from the Colonies who live permanently in Britain and there is a danger, Lord Listowel said the other day, that they may become a depressed minority of second-class citizens.

He urged that boys' and girls' clubs in places where there are coloured communities should be encouraged to persuade coloured children to share their facilities as full club members. Much could be done also, he said, by individuals, voluntary associations, and local authorities in extending simple hospitality to the coloured folk, and he called on learned societies and voluntary organisations to draw attention to the problems of Colonials in this country in their meetings and journals.

Solomon Island Singers

NEW hymn books in the language of the black-skinned people of Vella Lavella in the Solomon Islands are now being printed in New Zealand.

This hymn book is the result of translations made by the Revd A. W. E. Silvester, for many years teacher and friend of the islanders, who delight in hymn-singing.

While Japanese troops were in Vella Lavella Mr Silvester stayed with his people, finding refuge in their remote villages; and he received the highest American award for a civilian in recognition of the aid he and his mission natives had given to airmen and sailors in distress.

Soon Mr Silvester will retire from work in Vella Lavella, but first of all he will hear his villagers singing from their new hymn books.

Miniature Tram



This miniature tram, a replica of those used at Blackpool, was built by Mr C. W. Lane, of Brookhill Road, New Barnet, Herts. It will seat 17 children and runs on 110 yards of track.

LIONS IN ROTTEN ROW

THERE is more news of lions from Salisbury, Southern Rhodesia. Residents in the suburbs there will probably want to get home before dark, for one night, not long ago, a policeman saw a party of lions while he was patrolling in Rotten Row. Were they playing at horses going for a gallop there?

Residents in two other suburbs, Cranborne and Hatfield, went out one morning recently to find lions' footmarks in some loose sand.

It is many years since lions have been reported so near Salisbury.

A FINE OLD SUSSEX SCHOOL

Hurstpierpoint's Hundred Years

OVERLOOKING some of the fine downland scenery of Sussex stands one of England's public schools—the College of St John, Hurstpierpoint, which on July 23 celebrates the centenary of its foundation.

Hurstpierpoint College is one of the Woodard Foundation, of which there are 17 schools, eight for boys and nine for girls. The Revd Nathaniel Woodard was a curate of New Shoreham in Sussex rather more than 100 years ago, a remarkable man who, with the aid of generous benefactors like W. E. Gladstone and Lord Salisbury, founded three schools within ten years.

Hurstpierpoint began in rented premises at Shoreham, moved to a temporary home in the Mansion House at Hurstpierpoint in 1849, and to its permanent buildings in 1853. Built in silver-grey flint, the school is ranged round two great quadrangles.

Throughout a hundred years the boys of Hurstpierpoint College have worked and played together, and through success and failure have learned leadership and the full meaning of responsibility.

Traditions in a public school are built up over many years, and some very early ones have survived at Hurstpierpoint. About two miles away is Wolstonbury Hill, one of the downland peaks. On Ascension Day the scholars climb this hill to sing an Ascension Day hymn in Latin. Each chorister receives half a crown, known as Lowe's Dole, for the tradition was started by

Dr E. C. Lowe, the first headmaster, who made a bequest for this purpose. Then the school disperses in all directions for a whole day's holiday.

The Shakespeare Society was begun in 1854, and with the exception of war years has produced a play each year since that date. Last month the Society presented its 86th play—A Midsummer Night's Dream. The school magazine, notable as the first school magazine in the country—the Hurst Johnian—was started in 1858 and has produced 809 issues since then.

Another tradition started by Dr Lowe is the Boar's Head Feast. The choir form a procession with the boar's head carried on high. They march round the darkened dining hall singing a carol, themselves bearing flaming torches. From the hall they proceed round the College cloisters to the Upper School, where they have the biggest meal of the year.

There are no walls around Hurstpierpoint College, and in the freedom of the Sussex countryside it will continue to prepare boys to go into the world well equipped mentally, physically, and spiritually for the proper service of mankind.

A Tiff of Long Ago

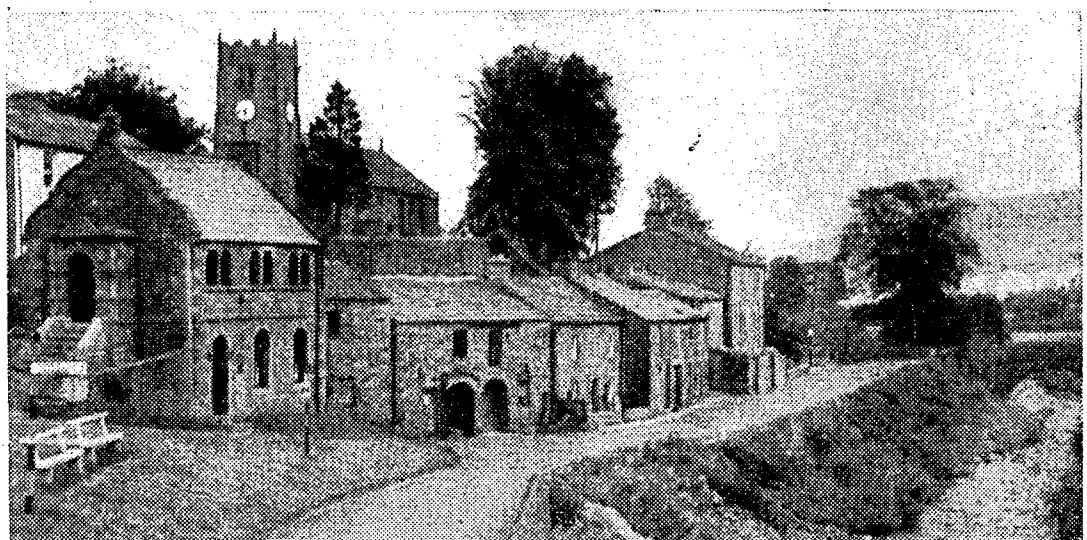
A CEREMONY took place in Paris recently which was just like two staunch friends good-humouredly recalling a little squabble they had had years before when they were boys. The ceremony was the unveiling by the French President of a statue in memory of General-Marchand, the brave and dashing Frenchman who was concerned in what our grandparents remember as the "Fashoda incident."

This incident took place in 1898 after Marchand had made his way across Africa to Fashoda and hoisted the French flag there. Fashoda was considered by Britain to be in her own and Egypt's sphere of influence, so our Lord Kitchener went there and politely asked Major Mar-

chand to leave. The gallant Frenchman as politely declined to do so. Finally the French Government ordered Major Marchand to withdraw.

How Britain's and France's feelings towards each other have changed during 51 years was well illustrated at the recent unveiling of Marchand's statue in Paris. A British naval officer, Admiral Sir Walter Cowan, who commanded a gunboat at Fashoda, was present and handed over a faded French flag which had been taken at Fashoda and which, he said, had been one of his treasured possessions for 51 years. Also present was the last French survivor of Fashoda.

Quarrels dead and buried can be remembered without harm.



THIS ENGLAND

The village of Muker among the fells of Swaledale in the North Riding of Yorkshire

SHORT CUT TO BLACK SEA

New Danube Canal

RUMANIA is to build a canal to enable shipping on the Danube to make a short cut to the Black Sea; the canal will run from Cernavoda on the river to the port of Constanta about 35 miles away. For, as the great river approaches the sea, it meanders off northwards, as though unwilling to end in the sea, and then reluctantly turns east again, finally to reach the sea through a vast delta of reedy, uninhabited swamps. Through this region there is only one channel, the Sulina, which has been adapted for use by large ships, and this waterway has to be constantly dredged to keep it from silting up.

By using the new canal, ships will be able to cut off the 200-mile journey they formerly had to make. The new canal will also help to bring a desolate region under cultivation, for it will both drain marshes and provide an irrigation system for land exposed to periodic drought.

Great Trade Highway

Vessels can ply on the Danube for 1750 miles of its length, passing through or between seven different countries, including Germany, where it is linked with the Rhine by a canal. It is the second longest river in Europe—the Volga is the longest—and it is a great highway for trade.

Before the war navigation on the entire river was controlled by the European Commission of the Danube, on which were representatives of Britain, France, Italy, Rumania, Germany, and Yugoslavia. But at the Danubian Conference at Belgrade last year the Russian delegate, Mr Vyshinsky, introduced a new Danube Convention from which the Western Powers were to be excluded.

Unless happier relations can be established between Soviet Russia and the Western Powers the new canal, which is to be constructed with Russian aid, will benefit only those countries behind the "Iron Curtain."

To find out about cosmic rays in the stratosphere Professor Piccard set out in May 1931 in a balloon of his own invention. His gondola was a metal, air-tight, hollow ball, seven feet across.



Pioneers 7. AUGUSTE PICCARD

explorer of the stratosphere



The inside of the gondola was like a miniature laboratory. In the bottom was fitted a special camera, and also several cylinders of oxygen for breathing. As the balloon rose it jerked badly, sending some of these flying.



At a height of nearly ten miles, higher than man had ever been before, Professor Piccard and his companion tugged at the valve rope to release the gas for descending. It broke and they were prisoners.

While waiting to descend they were so thirsty that they licked the condensed moisture off the walls of their chamber. They came down on a glacier in Austria, and made themselves a meal of flour and melted ice.



Pearls From the Humble Herring

WHEN a New England, U.S.A., jeweller discovered that his shop had been burgled recently, not an item of gold, silver, or precious jewellery was missing. The burglars had taken his entire stock of "pearl essence" instead!

This scarce commodity has a background as fascinating as its future is promising. Many centuries ago some genius noted the wondrous lustre which shone from the silvery scales of fish, and in due course there came into existence an essence or lacquer which was made from the thin luminous film which covers the scales. In early times this essence was used to coat glass beads, which were known as "Venetian" and "Roman" pearls. Pearl essence was made in many

lands, and by numerous methods.

Despite this early use of pearl essence, the knowledge of its complicated manufacture remained known only to a few people until quite recent times. Toward the end of last century chemists discovered that high-class pearl essence could be made from the scales of young herrings, and a new but small industry came into being in New England and Germany. For the German industry the scales were bought in Norwegian fishing ports. German chemists then processed the raw material into pearl essence for export to other countries.

Then, in 1945, Norway decided to make her own pearl essence, and two firms at Oslo and Stavanger entered the industry.

So great is the demand today for this lustrous lacquer that the cost has risen to five times its 1937 price. Pearl essence makes it possible to provide a necklace of such fine quality that only the trained expert can perceive the difference between the artificial "essence" pearl necklace costing £20 and the £2000 "dog-collar" of matched pearls. In making a first-class pearl necklace with the aid of glass or plastic beads and pearl essence every bead must be carefully hand-dipped in the pearl lacquer, and the beads skilfully finished, sized, and matched by experts.

Pearl essence (or lacquer) is used in making many other

kinds of jewellery — earrings, brooches, and costume jewellery, for example

Under expert treatment, pearl essence can be made to produce the most varied and beautiful mother-of-pearl effects. Apart from jewellery, it is being extensively used in the manufacture of knife handles, combs, fountain pens, decorative glass objects—the pearl paste is mixed with the glass in melted condition to obtain special effects—coatings applied to leather, mother-of-pearl lacquers, artists' colours, and nail polishes. It is a vital item of raw material in the celluloid, plastics, and allied industries.

All this—and more—from the scales of the humble herring!

FISHING FOR A BIRD

A MAN lay 20 minutes on a 14-inch parapet 100 feet above the ground in Sydney to rescue a baby chickenhawk which had fallen down a drain pipe.

While working on a building Dick Roach had seen a hawk's nest on a neighbouring block, and he had followed the hatching with interest. One day he saw that a baby hawk had fallen down a drain pipe, and so he got his mate to lift him on to the parapet with a crane. It took about 15 minutes to land the bird safely back with a piece of hooked wire.

READERS WIN BICYCLES

Results of "Cs and Ns" and Colouring Contests

AWARDS in No 1 of the CN weekly competitions are as follows. The first prize of A NEW BICYCLE goes to:

Mamie WILLACY (aged 11), Raylands, The Hill, Millom, Cumberland,

whose entry was correct and the best-written according to age.

TEN-SHILLING NOTES are awarded to: Joyce ARBUTHNOT (12) Upperlands; Hilary ASKEW (12) Coulsdon; William BROWN (13) Wigan; Joan CHAPMAN (16) Bradley; Alan COLE (8) Poole; Jill COOKE (9) Feltham; John DALY (11) Glasgow; Irene HARPER (8) Carmoney; Elizabeth HADLOW (15) Cheam; Crawford JACK (7) Strathaven; Alistair JOHNSTON (10) Stirling; Mary LARKMAN (13) Footscray; Ronald LUMSDEN (11) Dundee; Anne MAXWELL (11) Edinburgh; Christine NELSON (12) Scarborough; Edith OWEN (12) Richmond; Doreen RICHARDS (12) West Wickham; Fiona TAYLOR (12) Southport; Margaret WALKER (6) Coatbridge; Iris WRIGHT (16) Dawlish.

SOLUTION: Clouds, Cliffs, Cone, Canoe, Capstan, Car, Chair, Churn, Cornet, Camera, Cap, Creel, Catapult, Crab, Chain, Name, Nine, Newspaper, Newsboy, Negro, Nun, Nets, Nurse, Notice, Nozzle, Nose, Moose, Nut, Neck, etc (only 12 of each were asked for).

In Competition No 2, which was a colouring Test, many excellent efforts were received, and we congratulate all our young artists on the standard of work sent in.

The PRIZE BICYCLE for the best picture according to age has been awarded to:

Rosemary E. RAMSAY (aged 8), 5 Tynedale Gardens, Stocksfield-on-Tyne.

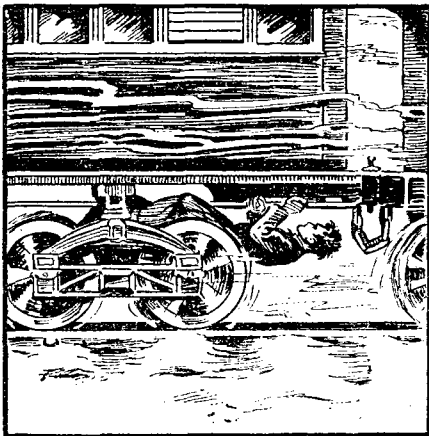
TEN-SHILLING NOTES are awarded to: Dolores ALWAY (12) Bristol; Barbara DIMOND (11) London; S.W.11; Alwyn DOBLE (8) Buxton; Margaret ELLIOTT (15) Birmingham; 28; Judith JEPSON (10) Cheadle Hulme; Ronald MARSHALL (14) Stapleford; Donald MASON (15) Sheffield; 5; Elizabeth RAEBURN (5) Little Bookham; Miriam WILLS (7) London, S.E.2; Eric YUILL (6) Clarkston.

Another competition appears on the next page.

ROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS—Jules Verne's Great Story, Told in Pictures



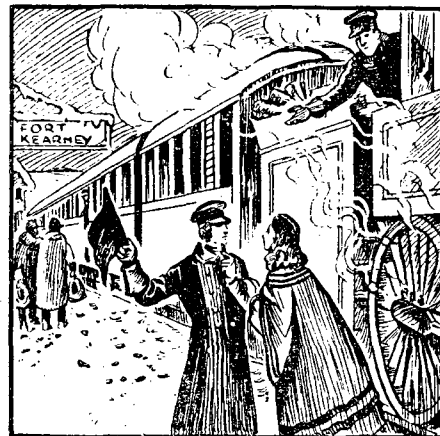
It seemed as though the Indians, attacking the passengers in the speeding train, would overcome them, as they had overcome the engine-driver and fireman. Fogg fought most valiantly.



The train was now approaching Fort Kearney, where there were soldiers. But the driver and his mate were stunned, and the train could not be stopped. Acrobatic Jean had an idea. He managed to climb down under the carriages and with agility worked his way forward. He uncoupled the engine and tender, which rushed on, while the train's speed slackened and the guard stopped it at Fort Kearney.



The Indians ran away. Then it was found they had taken Jean with them. Gallant Mr Fogg set out with a party of soldiers from Fort Kearney to try and rescue his resourceful servant.



Aouda remained at the station with the other passengers. Then the train's locomotive came back, the driver and fireman having recovered consciousness. The guard said the train must leave at once. Aouda begged him to wait until Mr Fogg returned, but he refused. There was not another train until tomorrow evening, which would be too late to get Mr Fogg to New York in time to catch the Liverpool boat.



Mr Fogg and the soldiers returned, having rescued Jean. But the train had gone. Then a man offered, for a sum of money, to take Mr Fogg to Omaha in a sailing sledge, over the flat snowbound plains. From Omaha there were plenty of trains to New York, said the sledge-owner, and if the wind held they should get there in a few hours. Mr Fogg agreed to try and his party entered the sledge.

How Will Mr Fogg Fare on This Strange Stage of His Journey? See Next Week's Instalment

The Children's Newspaper, July 23, 1949

An amusing adventure of BILL and JILL, the C N twins



Mr Beedle Does It Again

Told by Frank S. Pepper



"ONE last walk over the moors before lunch," said Uncle Dick.

"Are you sure your foot will be all right?" asked Bill Watson anxiously.

Uncle Dick was leaning his weight on a walking-stick. While rambling over the Yorkshire moors the previous afternoon with Bill and Jill, he had sprained his foot in a rabbit hole.

"It's almost better now," declared Uncle Dick. "A little exercise will do it good. Besides, as we are leaving this afternoon we ought to make the most of our time."

They had been staying at a small village inn, on a remote part of the moors, and had enjoyed every moment of it. But now it was almost time to go. Their bags were packed, standing in the little porch, ready to go to the station, five miles away.

UNCLE DICK reached for his hat and put it on.

He uttered a gasp of annoyance, and both the twins burst out laughing. They couldn't help it. Uncle Dick looked so funny.

The hat was much too small. It sat on the top of Uncle Dick's head and rocked as if there was a pigeon under it, trying to escape.

"Mr Beedle has done it again!" cried Bill.

"That man!" exclaimed Uncle Dick impatiently. "I never came across anyone so absent-minded."

Mr Beedle was the only other guest at the inn. He was a naturalist who had been collecting specimens on the moors. He was leaving that morning.

"Give me the hat," chuckled Bill. "I'll take it up to Mr Beedle's room."

Bill ran upstairs with the hat. When he entered the room Mr Beedle had just finished stuffing newspaper into the hat he intended to wear. He put it on and studied himself in a mirror. An expression of dismay came into his face when, in spite of the padding, the hat still slipped over his ears.

"Wrong hat, sir," said Bill from the doorway. "You've got Uncle Dick's again. Here is yours."

Mr Beedle beamed with relief.

"Thank you so much," he smiled. "I was beginning to fear that my head had shrunk. Dear me, I shall miss my train if I don't hurry."

"Let me help carry your suitcases down," begged Bill.

THERE were four cases. Bill picked up two, and found them extremely heavy. Mr Beedle picked up the other two.

"Don't forget your umbrella, sir," warned Bill.

Mr Beedle always carried an umbrella, even in the finest weather.

He paused, a suitcase in each hand, and looked thoughtfully at the umbrella leaning against the wall. He put down one suitcase to pick up the umbrella, then was puzzled to find that he

now had no hand free to pick up the second case.

He put the umbrella back and picked up the case. He was back where he had started. He pondered the problem.

"Hang the umbrella in the front of your coat, sir," suggested Bill.

"An excellent suggestion," beamed Mr Beedle. "But, unfortunately, both my hands are full."

"If you put down one of the cases—"

Mr Beedle caught the idea. He put the case down, picked up the umbrella, and hooked the handle in the front of his coat.

"Splendid. An excellent arrangement," he purred, following Bill out of the door.

"Mr Beedle, you've left the case behind."

"Dear me, so I have. Sometimes I think I must be growing a little absent-minded."

THE taxi arrived which was to take Mr Beedle to the station. Mr Beedle would not let the driver handle the suitcases, because they contained valuable specimens, but insisted on putting them in the taxi himself.

Uncle Dick, leaning on his stick, and the twins came out to the porch to say goodbye. Mr Beedle shook hands all round.

CN Competition No 9

WIN THIS WEEK'S FREE BICYCLE!

£5 in Other Prizes

THIS is the ninth of C N's novel and interesting competitions in which a New Bicycle is offered as the chief prize every week. There is NO entry fee. So take your pen or pencil and see if your entry in this contest can win for you a new Bicycle—or one of the ten consolation prizes!

This is WHAT TO DO: Each of the objects pictured below is for cutting a certain kind of thing. For example, F is the wire with handles for cutting cheese . . . so that answer is F—CHEESE. Now study the pictures and decide what each of the other implements is used for specially.

The Prize Bicycle (junior or full-size, as required) will be awarded to the boy or girl whose list of answers is correct, or most nearly so. In the case of ties, handwriting and general neatness in relation to age will also be taken into account. Tenshilling Notes will be given for the ten best entries. So simply take a postcard or single sheet of paper, put your name, address, and age at the top right-hand corner and then make a list A to L of the twelve answers—or as many as you know.

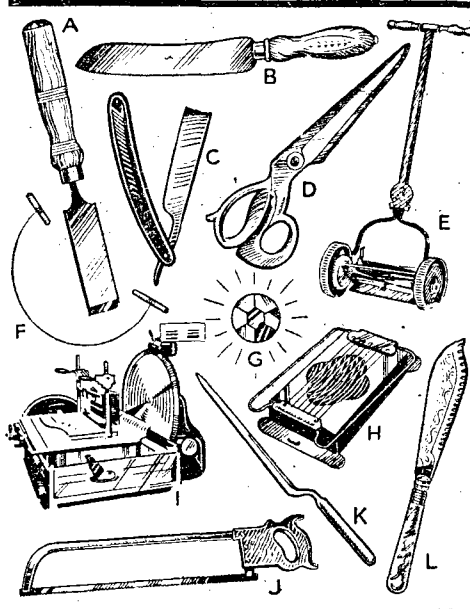
Cut out and pin or paste to your entry the competition token (marked "CN Token" and given on the back page of this issue). Ask your parent, guardian, or teacher to sign the completed entry as being your own written work and post to:

CN Competition No 9,
GPO Box 682,
The Fleetway House,
London, E C 4 (Comp).

Entries must arrive by Friday, July 29.

Competition open to all readers under 17 in Great Britain, Northern Ireland, and the Channel Islands. No reader may send more than one attempt. The Editor's decision will be final.

What Do These Cut?



He clasped Uncle Dick's hand particularly hard, and would not let go. He looked earnestly into Uncle Dick's face.

"There was something I particularly wanted to say to you," he murmured. "Ah yes, I remember now. Please don't apologise about having taken my hat. We all make these little mistakes."

Uncle Dick looked staggered. "Quite!" he gulped.

Mr Beedle smiled forgivingly at Uncle Dick, then turned to hold out his hand to the taxidriver.

"Well goodbye," he said. "It has been so nice knowing you."

"But I'm coming with you!" gasped the taxidriver.

"Really?" exclaimed Mr Beedle. "That will be delightful!"

They got him into the taxi at last, and all went into the street to wave to him.

"And now for our walk on the moors," sighed Uncle Dick in relief.

"Just a minute. I need a handkerchief from one of our cases. I've packed them all," Bill said suddenly.

He hurried into the porch to open a suitcase, and then let out a cry of dismay.

"Mr Beedle has done it again; Look!"

THE case was full of specimen boxes and naturalist's equipment. Mr Beedle had left one of his own cases behind, and taken one of Uncle Dick's!

"We must get another car, and go after them at once!" cried Uncle Dick.

The village garage had but one car, and that was already on its way to the distant station with Mr Beedle. But fortunately the innkeeper owned one, and was willing to lend it.



Flying Drakes

Like Drake of old, fighter pilots pass the time with a quiet game of bowls while awaiting the order to "scramble" during an air defence exercise.

The only way in and out of the village was by narrow, winding lanes where there was scarcely room for two cars to pass. Uncle Dick had to curb his impatience, and drive slowly.

A mile from the village Uncle Dick had to jam his brakes on hard as he rounded a bend. A car blocked the road ahead.

"What a dangerous place to stop a car!" exclaimed Uncle Dick impatiently, and sounded his horn.

The driver of the car in front got out and walked back.

"I say, do you mind moving your car?" cried Uncle Dick. "I'm in a frightful hurry."

"Can't be helped, old man. There's a hold-up round the next bend. Can't get through."

"But I must get through," insisted Uncle Dick. "I've got to get to the station before the train leaves. It's terribly important."

"We'll probably be stuck here for hours," said the other gloomily. "See for yourself."

THEY all got out and walked round the bend. Three more cars were parked in line in the narrow lane, bonnet to bumper, unable to go any farther because a huge lorry, which was loaded with an enormous steel boiler, had become jammed under a narrow railway bridge.

"I say, can't you possibly get this thing out of the way?" protested Uncle Dick. "I'm in a tearing hurry."

"I'll be as quick as I can, sir, but you can see for yourself we're stuck fast," answered the lorry-driver. "I'll be away as soon as I get help."

"How long will that take?" asked Uncle Dick impatiently.

"Can't say. I've sent my mate to walk up to the main road to get a lift to Skipton and bring back an oxy-acetylene cutter. The only thing to do is to climb up there and burn off those projecting bolts that are jammed tight under the bridge girders."

"Good gracious! That'll take hours!" groaned Uncle Dick. "Whatever made you bring a load like that through these lanes?"

"To save obstructing traffic on the main roads," answered the lorry-driver gloomily.

DISGUSTEDLY, Uncle Dick went back and sat in the car, leaving Bill talking to the lorry-driver.

Five minutes later, to his surprise, the cars began to give triumphant toots on their horns, and to move forward. When he

came in sight of the bridge he saw that the lorry was now free, and had been run off the road into a field entrance. Bill was grinning triumphantly.

"Didn't take long to solve that little problem, did it?" he said proudly.

"How did you manage it?" demanded Jill.

"Quite simply. It came to me in a flash," said Bill.

"What came to you in a flash?" insisted Jill.

"Tell you later," retorted Bill. "Tell us now, and don't be horrible," snapped Jill.

"I say, Uncle Dick, you haven't got much time. You'll have to step on it when we reach the main road if we're to get to the station in time," urged Bill, maddeningly ignoring Jill's question.

JILL, in spite of her curiosity, refused to give her brother the satisfaction of making fun of her any further.

She sat in silence for the rest of the journey. They reached the little country station with two minutes to spare. They found Mr Beedle on the platform, and hurriedly exchanged the suitcases. The train was coming in when Jill began to relate their encounter with the lorry jammed under the bridge.

"And Bill's trying to be clever. He won't tell us how it was got out," Jill finished angrily.

Mr Beedle chuckled knowingly.

"A problem capable of a very simple solution, dear lady," he said to Jill's surprise.

"Do tell," begged Jill.

Mr Beedle entered his carriage. As the train was about to pull out he leaned from the window and shouted:

"All you would have to do is to let the air out of the tyres."

THE expression of chagrin on Bill's face told Jill and Uncle Dick that the surprising Mr Beedle had stolen his thunder.

Uncle Dick and Jill both began to chuckle.

Then Bill started to roar with laughter. He pointed to Uncle Dick.

"Mr Beedle has done it again!" he cried.

"Eh?" gasped Uncle Dick, and looked down.

His walking-stick had vanished. He was leaning on Mr Beedle's umbrella. Mr Beedle had indeed done it again. He had left his umbrella behind and absent-mindedly carried off Uncle Dick's walking-stick in exchange!

More of Bill and Jill next week

"I wish they were MAGIC shoes"
SIGNED TERRY

Terry and Tessa go back to Clarks big factory next day... They meet the same Mr Challoner who had given them the shoes...

Clarks CHILDREN'S SHOES

A Present From the Roman Wall SOUVENIR FOR A SOLDIER

A SMALL Roman cup of Celtic workmanship, two inches high and four inches across, and brightly coloured in red, green, and blue enamel, has just come to light during excavations at Amiens, in France.

Archaeologists are greatly interested in this find, for the cup is almost identical with the Rudge Cup found in Wiltshire during the 18th century and now in Alnwick Castle.

Both cups probably belonged to Roman centurions, and may have been regarded as souvenirs of their service in certain forts forming part of the Roman Wall which stretched between the Solway Firth and the Tyne Estuary.

Round the rim of the Rudge Cup run the names of four of the forts of the Roman Wall and one of the northern outposts connected with it. The newly-discovered Amiens Cup has the same names in the same order, with a sixth name added—Esica, the modern Great Chesters.

In Roman times Amiens was a busy military transit camp, so it is not surprising that the cup should be found there. It may have been left by a veteran centurion on his way home to a peaceful retirement in Gaul or Spain or North Africa.

One puzzling feature of the two cups is the selection of the names. Although there were 16 forts on the wall the cups have, with one exception, the same names. Nor were the most important forts selected, for there were others just as big, and the largest of all is not mentioned on either cup.

One explanation is that by the merest chance the cups may have belonged to men who served in the same forts and had the cups made to order by a Celtic craftsman as souvenirs. It is indeed pleasant to contemplate a thriving industry run by our Celtic forefathers in supplying a whole series of "Present from the Roman Wall" cups for their Roman masters.

FOR THE COMMON GOOD A Medieval Fund

IN the House of Lords Viscount Samuel made a reference to the Scottish Common Good Fund. The Scottish institution of the Common Good Fund dates back to medieval times, when the burghs owned a considerable amount of land and property and from it derived much of their revenue. A seaport, for instance, might hold substantial fisheries, while a town in a rich agricultural area might own several mills.

In those days the townspeople were not subjected to rates, for all the burgh expenses were amply covered by its Common Good Fund, derived from its property.

During the 15th and 16th centuries, however, the management of the burgh property became very corrupt, and as a consequence the Common Good Fund in most towns dwindled very considerably. During the following centuries, as civilisation advanced and life became more complex, the demand upon the burgh revenue was greatly increased and rates had to be introduced to bridge the gap between public expenditure and the diminished fund.

New Charts of New Zealand

MEN of the Royal Navy will be busy for the next 20 or 30 years drawing new charts of the coastline of New Zealand. For this task a special survey ship, H.M.A.S. Lachlan, has been loaned by the Australian Government to the New Zealand Squadron of the Navy.

The first chart of the islands was drawn by Captain Cook in 1761 during the voyage of the Endeavour. For two years just before the Second World War a new H.M.S. Endeavour was busy in New Zealand waters, and her officers drew new charts of 662 miles of coastline.

They found that some islands and bays were half a mile or more out of the position shown on early charts. The first lighthouse that ships pass when approaching the port of Auckland, Cuvier Island light, was also found to be half a mile out.

For many years to come New Zealand seamen and special officers of the Royal Navy will be taking soundings which will help the chartmakers at the Admiralty to make new and accurate charts of the most distant of the Dominions.

WINNIPEG IS 75

WINNIPEG, capital of Manitoba and Canada's third largest city, has celebrated the seventy-fifth anniversary of its incorporation as a town.

A fort built at the junction of the Red and Assiniboine rivers to protect the Scottish settlers was the centre around which the town sprang up, the name Winnipeg being derived from the Indian words win (muddy) and nipee (water). Largely because of the coming of the Canadian Pacific Railway in 1881, the population rose from 2200 in 1874 to 70,000 by 1903. Winnipeg remains the great metropolis of the prairie country and has a present population of 235,000.

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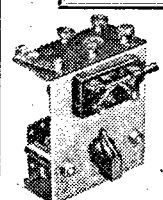
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To all readers who send 2d. stamp for my selection of pictorial Approvals I will present three modern North Borneo stamps. This beautiful bi-coloured set (unused) depicts a Cockatoo, Buffalo and Jungle native! And is absolutely free! Write now to:

A. E. RUDGE,
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RIDGE TENT

Ridge Tent, with walls. Brand new, 5 ft. 6 in. along ridge, 7 ft. 3 in. along wall, 4 ft. 6 in. wide, 3 ft. 6 in. high, 12 in. high wall. Packed in valise. All accessories, £2 12s. 6d. Carr. and Pack. 1s. 6d.

EX-ARMY BELL TENTS, £5 15s. Complete. Carr. paid. Circ. 44 ft., ht. 9 ft. 6 in. **MARQUEES, 30 ft. x 20 ft., ht. 14 ft.** approx. £38 15s. Larger sizes.

Also Handy Pocket size **TELESCOPE**. Magnification remarkably good. 2 draw when closed 2 1/2", when open 5 1/2". Price 5s. Post pack 6d.

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SHIP AT SEA IN 4000 SECTIONS

A 250-FOOT-LONG luxury liner just "completed" in a Clyde yard will be launched in India. Her streamlined superstructure, funnel, mast, and propelling machinery were placed in position in the normal way. Decks, pipes, portholes, and lifeboat davits were fitted. But one side of the ship was painted green, and the other side red, and all her plates were numbered.

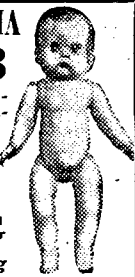
Today the craftsmen who built her are taking her apart, being careful to see that there is no mix up. In 4000 sections she will be placed in the holds of another ship bound for India. By road, rail, and hill track she will go to be rebuilt by local labour.

The coloured numbered plates will guide the Indian workers, but just to make sure that bow sections will not be fitted at the stern or cabins built in the wrong places a Clydeside worker will travel with the luxury liner to supervise her reconstruction on the shores of the Indian lake on which she will sail.

The Children's Newspaper, July 23, 1949

SLEEPING & MAMA DOLL

14½ ins. jointed, composition throughout, life-like sleeping eyes with eyelashes and glass pupils, distinct 'ma-ma' voice. As above, but with wig, price 22/6 carr. paid.



WALKING

Mama and Sleeping

DOLL Carr. 99/6
26 ins. jointed, composition throughout, walks when hand is held, real 'ma-ma' voice, well finished—fully dressed in silk, luxurious life-like wig.
Almost a Full Size Young Lady!
Cash refunded in full if dissatisfied. Safe delivery guaranteed.
FAIRWAY HOUSE,
The Doll House (Dept. 132)
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COUNCIL AUTHORITIES SUPPLIED AT SPECIAL RATES

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SHOOTS PING PONG BALLS
This extremely popular toy provides a world of fun for young and old. Dozens of thrilling and jolly games can be played with it. Firing a ping-pong ball, it cannot hurt or do the slightest damage and it is a grand help to improve your table tennis.
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How the children will enjoy it! Right and left the bandits fall Vanquished by a ping-pong ball.
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THE LION THAT PASSED BY A Lord Mayor's Adventures

JULY 20 is the 300th anniversary of the death of Sir John Gayer, who started the oddly-named custom of the "Lion Sermon," which is preached every year at the Church of St Katherine Cree in the City of London.

Sir John Gayer said that once when he had been lost in a desert a lion passed him without attacking him, which, he declared, was an answer to his prayers for safety and his vows to carry out charitable acts if spared to do so. In consequence, he left £200 in his will to the parish of St Katherine Cree to provide for a sermon to be preached every year, and this has come to be known as the "Lion Sermon."

Sir John was a Cornishman who came to London and became a rich merchant and Lord Mayor. As a director of the East India Company he probably travelled to the East, where he had his adventure with the lion.

Accused of Treason

He was a bold, John Bullish sort of person, and not the sort to avoid danger; for he got himself into plenty of trouble during the Civil War. His sympathies seem to have been with the king and he was eventually imprisoned in the Tower by Parliament, accused of high treason. He was to be brought before the House of Lords and he wrote a letter demanding trial by a jury.

When brought before the House, he refused to kneel at the bar as a delinquent and was promptly fined £500 for contempt and sent back to the Tower. Then the alderman who had been appointed Lord Mayor in his place, John Warner, generously petitioned for his release and he was discharged.

Beside the Waters of the Jordan IRRIGATION PLANS

LARGE new irrigation works are being carried out by the Kingdom of Jordan—the new name of Transjordan—south of the Sea of Galilee. These works will consist of a dam on the Wadi-el-Arab and irrigation channels running down the Wadi towards the River Jordan.

They are designed to bring water to about 7500 acres of land and thus enable thousands of families to go to live in this region, many of whom will be Arab refugees from Palestine.

Other new irrigation schemes are being prepared by the Kingdom of Jordan. These will consist of six wadis running westwards into the Jordan.

These big projects should not only increase the Kingdom of Jordan's agricultural wealth, but provide for the resettlement of more than 300,000 Arab refugees from Palestine. Britain has loaned one million pounds, free of interest, to the Kingdom for these works to be started.

These beneficent undertakings recall a famous passage in Isaiah: "... and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose ... for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert. And the glowing sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water: in the habitation of jackals, where they lay shall be grass with reeds and rushes ..."

BEDSIDE SHOPPING

BECAUSE women patients in hospital cannot go shopping, members of Birmingham's WVS are taking the shops to them. As an experiment, on four afternoons each week a mobile "department store" is trundled from bed to bed in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

BEDTIME CORNER

When Daddie Comes Home

WHEN Father's latchkey jingles,
Oh, that's the time for fun!
Before he gets it in the lock
We hear it, and we run.

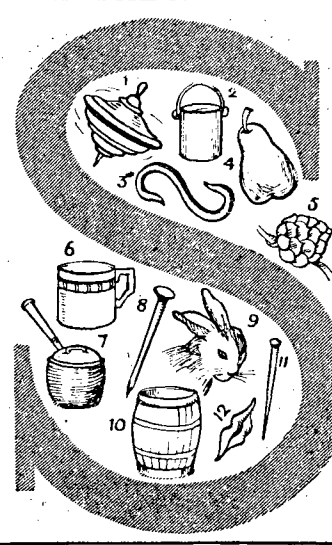
Sometimes he is a robber,
So very fierce and bold—
Who shoots an umbrella gun,
And steals our hoarded gold.

Sometimes he is a lion
Who tries to eat us all,

Or drag us to his darksome cave—
The cupboard in the hall ...
Sometimes he is a sailor
Returning from a cruise,
With hosts of presents in his trunk
To play with and to use.

Sometimes he is a soldier
On furlough from the wars;
Again he is a splendid knight,
With glory and with scars.

FIND THE NAMES AND MAKE NEW WORDS



By putting an S before the name of each object illustrated here, another word can be formed. Can you name the objects and so make the new words? When you have tried your hardest check your answers with the list given below.

Pin, Spin, 12 Lips, Ships.
Hare, Share, 10 Tub, Stub, 11
7 Pan, Span, 8 Nail, Snail, 9
5 Hop, Shop, 6 Mug, Smug,
3 Hook, Shook, 4 Pear, Spear.
1 Top, Stop, 2 Can, Scan.

Do It Well

If a task is once begun,
Never leave it till it's done;
Be the labour great or small,
Do it well or not at all.

Write on the road to success



WITH BIRO MINOR

The invention of Biro, the ball-point pen, has changed the world's method of writing. There is no nib to splutter or cross and no need to fill from an inkpot. The special ink dries as it writes, so there is no need for blotting paper.

All these improvements in writing are found in the Biro Minor—plus the fact that four colour inks are available: red, green, royal-blue and black. Each Biro Minor is coloured to match the ink inside and you can fit a refill in a flash. A protector cap enables you to carry Minors in your pocket or satchel.

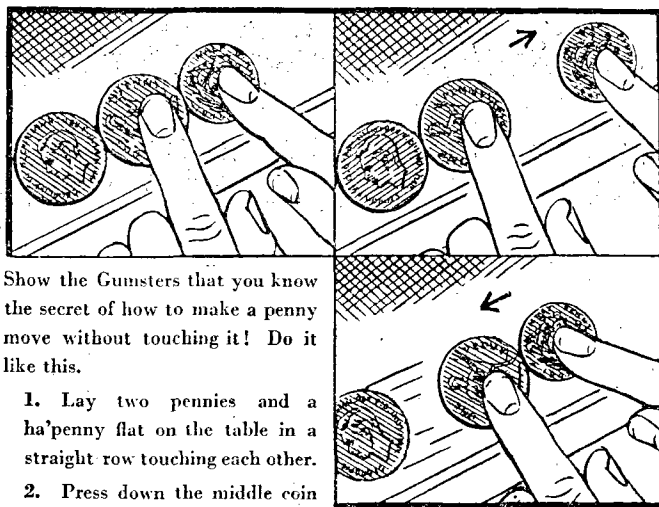
Biro Minor is the modern writing instrument for modern boys and girls. If you've any writing to do, Biro Minor will do the job quicker, better, and you'll find it a pleasure.

BIRO MINORS: 4/11 each (inc. tax)
REFILL INSERTS: 2/3½ each (inc. tax)

Biro Minor

TRICK TIME for Rowntree's Gumsters

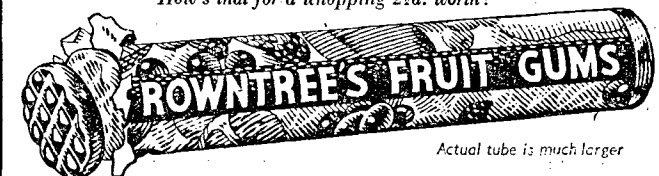
THE MIGHTY HA'PENNY



Show the Gumsters that you know the secret of how to make a penny move without touching it! Do it like this.

1. Lay two pennies and a ha'penny flat on the table in a straight row touching each other.
2. Press down the middle coin tightly with the left forefinger. Now slide the ha'penny a short distance from the other two.
3. With the ha'penny tap the centre coin, hard. Hey presto! The first penny springs away—and you have not even touched it. When all the Gumsters have done the trick see which one can tap the penny furthest.

*Idea! Something else two pennies and a ha'penny will do — they will buy a tube of long-lasting Rowntree's Fruit Gums, which lots of Gumsters can make last a whole schoolday. How's that for a whopping 2½d. worth?



THE BRAN TUB

DISCORD

At a concert a man was making loud and almost continuous conversation with his friend. "What a wretched nuisance!" exclaimed a man on his other side. "Are you referring to me?" demanded the loud-voiced one. "Oh, no! I was referring to the musicians who keep making such a noise that I cannot hear your conversation."

FARMER GRAY EXPLAINS

Wasps as Paper Makers. "Don, come quickly; there's a wasp's nest in the hedge," called Ann.

Don joined his sister and they gazed in astonishment at the unusual sight. "I thought wasps made their home underground," said Don. "It looks as though it's made of paper," added Ann.

"It's a Wood-wasp's nest," explained Farmer Gray, joining the children. "The nest is made of paper—paper which the wasps make themselves. They obtain the wood from fences and trees. Most species of wasps build their nest underground, but wood-wasps often fix theirs to the branch of a bush or tree."

He Knew How

HANDEL once undertook to play the dismissal in a crowded church. The sermon ended, and Handel commenced playing; but the congregation were so entranced that no one stirred. The regular organist finally waved Handel away impatiently, saying: "You can't dismiss a congregation. See how soon I can disperse them."

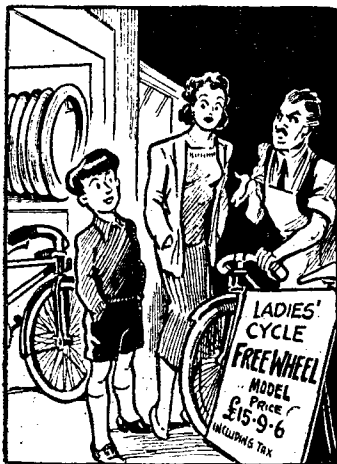
ENIGMA

BEHOLD the break of yet another day.
Curtailed, a saucy bird is plainly seen.
Transform the whole and, presto, there appears
The magic staff of every fairy queen.

One Dozen

Ask a friend "How many pennies are there in a dozen?" The answer will, of course, be "Twelve." Then immediately ask "How many half-pennies in a dozen?" and nine times out of ten the answer will be "Twenty-four." Only the very alert thinker will give the correct answer of twelve.

RODDY



"Don't buy it, Mummie. Wait until the whole bicycle is free, like the wheel."

Jacko Goes Head Over H-eels



Jacko and Chimp spied an eel in the seaside rock pool.



But this one really was as "slippery as an eel"...



... as Jacko discovered when he made a closer inspection.

COUNTRYSIDE FLOWERS

Yellow Goat's-Beard

YELLOW Goat's-Beard is a very common plant, and its flowers are rather like small Dandelions. They grow singly on smooth, round stalks. When the flower is half open it is surrounded by a cup of eight narrow leaves with tall, fine points. These points rise far above the yellow flower. The plant's leaves are stalkless, and shaped like grass blades.

Yellow Goat's-Beard has a habit of closing at midday, an oddity which has earned it the name of "John-go-to-bed-at-noon."

Speed and Strength

THE spider is probably the fastest living creature relative to its size. Spiders have been observed to run a hundred times their own length in a second.

The beetle is probably the strongest living creature relative to its size. It can carry a load 850 times its own weight.

JUST SO!

WHAT pupil has no holidays—
Receives no blame, receives no praise?
I'll tell you, as you ask me why—
It is the pupil of an eye!

Black Mark, Johnny!

DADDIE was glancing through little Johnny's exercise book. "There seem to be a lot of crosses on these arithmetic problems of yours," he said.

"Yes, Daddie," replied Johnny. "I think that must be teacher's way of writing his signature."

Cycling Problem

TOM, Dick, and Harry agreed to cycle round a track one and a half miles in circumference. Tom set off at a cracking pace and averaged 18 m.p.h., whereas Dick and Harry, who were much younger, could only average 12 and 10 m.p.h. respectively. They agreed to stop when all three were abreast again at the starting place.

When this happened how many circuits had each made?

Answer next week

MEAN INDEED

SAMMY SIMPLE says that he knows a person who is so mean that he skims his milk on top, then turns it over and skims it on the bottom.

Tongue-Twister

THEOPHILUS THISTLE, sifting a sieve full of unsifted thistles, thrust three thorny thistles through the thick of his thumb. If thou shouldst sift thistles see that thou dost not thrust three thistles through thy thumb.

HIGH AND DRY

YOUNG Sam was taken to the sea
To spend a happy week.
His lodgings weren't the best, I fear—

The bath had sprung a leak.
Evening came, and Sam was told
To get himself undressed.
He ran the water for his bath,
And quickly acquiesced.
All went well for just a while,
Then in dismay Sam cried,
"I didn't know that by the sea
Baths went out with the tide!"

Unsuitable!

A TAILOR sent an editor a bill for a suit. He received the bill back with a note thanking him, but regretting that the manuscript was not acceptable.

The Children's Hour

BBC Programmes from Wednesday, July 20, to Tuesday, July 26.

WEDNESDAY, 5.0 The Goldfish and the Piano-Tuner—a story. 5.15 Regional Round. N. Ireland, 5.0 The Islanders (Part 1)—a talk. North, 5.0 A Nursery Sing Song; Children of Other Lands—Yugoslavia; Books Worth Reading. Welsh, 5.0 Young Artists.

THURSDAY, 5.0 Baron Bear and the Little Prince (2). 5.30 Young Artists. Midland, 5.30 Shelton Junior School Choir, Stoke-on-Trent. North, 5.0 Adventure in Scarborough. Welsh, 5.0 Programme in Welsh. 5.30 Iolo the Huntsman—a story; Picture Books—a talk.

FRIDAY, 5.0 The Emerald Crown (3). Scottish, 5.0 Birdman Goes Fishing; 214th Glasgow Company Boys' Brigade Pipeband. 5.25 The Treasure of the Isle of Mist (Part 1).

SATURDAY, 5.0 Seeing Double—a story; A Lizzie Leghorn story; Scottish Country Dance Records. 5.25 Exploring the Hut-Country.

SUNDAY, 5.0 The Milestone Who Wasn't Invited—a story; Violin; A Junior Choir; Elijah the Tishbite. North, 5.0 Regional Feature.

MONDAY, 5.0 This Week's Programmes. 5.5 The Tale of Pigling Bland (2); Piano; Biffer the Cocker Spaniel (2). North, 5.0 Wandering with Nomad; Music; Talk on Thunderstorms.

TUESDAY, 5.0 The Runaway Bus; Competition results. 5.25 Nature Parliament. Midland, 5.25 Watch Your Step—Road Safety Quiz; Commentary from a Pedestrian Crossing. North, 5.0 Chester Zoo; Four in Hand; Gardeners All. Scottish, 5.0 Two Stories for the younger listeners; Songs and Dances of Scotland. Welsh, 5.0 Programme in Welsh.

The Children's Newspaper, July 23, 1947

STAYING POWER

"AND how do you like going to school?" asked Uncle of his six-year-old nephew.

"I like the going well enough," replied the boy. "It's the staying there that I don't like."

Furrowed in Thought

CRIED a schoolboy who couldn't spell plough.

"I am trying my hardest, I vow." Said his teacher, "You dunce, I believe you for once. For deep furrows are creasing your brow."

LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS

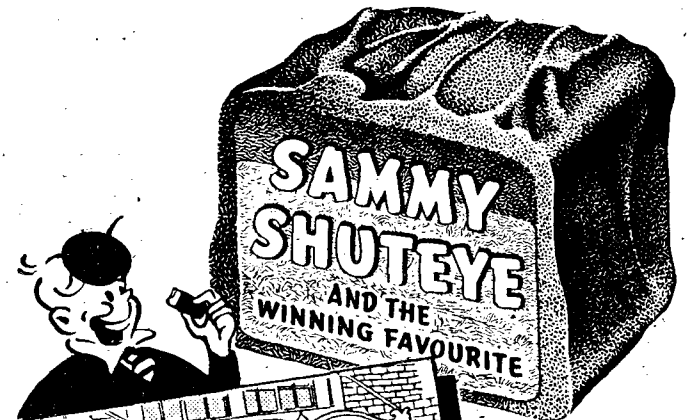
Hidden Measures: Inch, yard, fathom, rod, foot, mile, acre, league.

What Am I? Fewer (fewer, ewe).

POD	HATCH
ACANTHA	E
STY	OPEN
TA	TOVED
EGG	W RIB
OATEN	TU
KNEE	AMIR
LAMP	POON
TASKS	ANT

Pithy Proverb

To get up in the world we must get down to work.



MARS HAS EVERYTHING!

- Thick coating of milky chocolate
- Layer of buttery flavoured caramel
- Delicious chocolate- whip centre

MARS LTD. SLOUGH BUCKS

CN token

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